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A

Year in Europe.



VOLUME II.

YEAR IN EUROPE.

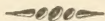
COMPRISING

A JOURNAL OF OBSERVATIONS

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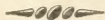
ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, IRELAND, FRANCE, SWITZERLAND,
THE NORTH OF ITALY, AND HOLLAND.

In 1818 and 1819.



BY JOHN GRISCOM,

PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY AND NATURAL PHILOSOPHY IN THE N. YORK INSTITUTION;
MEMBER OF THE LIT. AND PHIL. SOCIETY OF NEW-YORK, &c.



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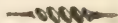
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ERRATA.

FROM the rapidity with which the press has followed the compositor, various errors have escaped correction. The reader is requested to rectify the following with his pen or pencil. Others, it is presumed, will be discovered, which the want of time prevents us from pointing out.

VOLUME I.

- Page 32, first line of the note, for *affords*, read *afford*.
59, second line, for *Diddington*, read *Deddington*.
163, fourth line from the bottom, for *wall*, read *walls*.
164, fourth line, for *succeed*, read *succeeds*.
164, fifth line, for *require*, read *requires*.
194, twentieth line, for *when*, read *where*.
205, tenth line from the bottom, for *Leskard*, read *Leskeard*.
212, fourteenth line from the bottom, for *Ivey*, read *Ivy*.
224, twelfth line from the bottom, for 6000, read 4000.
228, ninth line from the bottom, for 50,000, read 45,000.
229, sixteenth line, for *she*, read *it*.
234, tenth line, for 25,000, read 2,500.
234, tenth line from the bottom, for *that place*, read *Brighton*.
301, fifteenth line, for *Juglano*, read *Juglans*.
316, twelfth line from the bottom, for *light*, read *direct light*.
338, twelfth line, for *St. Martins*, read *St. Martin*.
353, sixth line from the bottom, for *Jurin*, read *Jurine*.
368, sixteenth line, for 1,200, read 12,000.

VOLUME II.

- Page 35, eight line from the bottom, dele *the*, before *two*.
69, eight line from the bottom, (and in other places,) for *Brongniart*, read *Brongniart*.
108, fifteenth line, for *Blainville*, read *Majendie*.
152, last line, for *contained*, read *consisted of*.
212, tenth line from the bottom, for *do sometimes*, read *do not sometimes*.
224, fifteenth line from the bottom, after *will cost*, insert *the general government*.
261, fifth line from the bottom, for *city*, read *town*.
298, seventh line, for *eight first*, read *first eight*.
326, seventh line from the bottom, for *anecdotalical*, read *anecdotal*.
409, fourteenth line, for *inkles*, read *ingles*.
509, second line from the bottom, for *inspection*, read *inspiration*.
515, ninth line from the bottom, for £9000, read \$19,000.

A YEAR IN EUROPE.



LETTER XVIII.

Lyons, 11th month, (Novem.) 8, 1818.

MY DEAR *****,

ON landing at Marseilles, our trunks were opened and examined by the douaniers, and found "comme il faut." We took up our quarters at "l'hotel des Ambassadeurs," where we had a good table d'hote, and a large and respectable looking company at dinner. Knowing no person here, and having no letters, and yet wishing to become acquainted with some of the citizens, as well as of the streets, I called on the American consul, M. Cathalan, an elderly French gentleman of much respectability, and introduced myself as a travelling and inquisitive "Fredonian."* Though it was nearly as late as possible for *morning* hours, he had not been to breakfast, and having lately been very unwell, and also his wife, (children he informed me they had none) he seemed to regret that I could not call again; and gave me the address of his agent J. D****. But one topic of conversation

* I would not be understood, as wishing to sanction the use of this assumptive and unnecessary term.

introducing another, he kept us half an hour, showed us his paintings, an exquisite bust of Washington, which he had crowned with a beautiful wreath of the flower "immortel," (everlasting,) his books, his maps, and wished me to stay and hear a long and excellent letter he had lately received from Thomas Jefferson. But this, on account of the old gentleman's breakfast and my own time, I was obliged to decline, and parted, after receiving from him some useful hints relative to the various objects, the state of science, &c. in Marseilles.

Our passports, which were taken from us in the steamboat, it cost us some time and trouble to regain, on account of the punctilious forms to which we were subjected, and the number of persons in attendance at the office, waiting each for his turn to answer to the questions put to him relative to his residence, destination, &c.

4th. We called this morning on L*****, an apothecary, who is appointed to the professorship of chemistry, in a medical school recently established in Marseilles, and obtained from him a recommendation to the hospital. He informed me that the manufacture of Soda, from common salt, is carried on so extensively near Marseilles, as almost entirely to prevent the introduction of the vegetable soda, or barilla, from Spain and other places. The salt is first treated with sulphuric acid, and the sulphate is then decomposed by carbonate of lime and charcoal. The muriatic acid is not preserved, but allowed to escape.

The hospital contains 325 patients, but there was nothing extraordinary in the arrangement or condition of the wards. One fact I thought interesting.

Several respectable ladies of the city come twice a week to the hospital, for the express and benevolent purpose of combing the heads of the patients, and spend many hours in this gratuitous and uninviting task. I found in the hospital three or four Americans, one of whom was intent upon his Bible; and he informed me, with an expression of much satisfaction, that he was a member of the Marine Bible Society of New-York.

From the top of the hospital we had a good view of the town; but a still more extended one from the summit of a hill on the southeast side, called mount Bourbon, formerly mount Bonaparte. The names of streets, columns, bridges, hills, &c. change in all parts of France, at every turn of the political weather-cock. But these frequent changes help to keep off the "demon *ennui*," which a Frenchman holds so much in dislike and terror. The beds of this hospital are not remarkably clean, though they are mostly curtained. There are but six or eight of the sisters of charity in the house, the nurses being hired for the purpose.

The museum of paintings and antiquities has a good deal to interest a stranger. Some of the paintings are fine, but the light in which they are seen, is very bad. The Roman antiquities, found near Marseilles, consisting of statues, urns, medals, &c. are numerous, and well preserved in this museum. There is here also a pretty large collection of shells. Among the rarities of the cabinet is a hydrocephalus skull, nearly a foot in diameter. The library contains 60,000 volumes, and is supplied with modern publications.

I went into a manufactory of coral ornaments. This

material is found no where on the coast in such abundance as in the gulf of Lyons. It is sawed into pieces, filed, ground, bored, polished or carved into beads, seals, ringlets, &c. chiefly by women. In grinding and polishing such small pieces as fine beads, the fingers are very much exposed to injury, and I could not but compassionate those who had to perform it. The soap manufactories of Marseilles are upon a vast scale, and a sufficient quantity of the article is made in this place, as L***** informed me, to supply three fourths of France. I visited one of these large establishments, but saw nothing in the process particularly novel. The impure carbonate of soda, derived from the decomposition of common salt, and olive oil are the materials employed.

That part of the city of Marseilles, which is the most modern, may be styled handsome. The street called the *Cours*, is very wide, and has in the middle of it a large passage, for foot passengers only, with a row of majestic trees on both sides. The carriages pass on each side, between the trees and the houses. The latter, as in Paris and Lyons, are very high, but the superior width of the streets in Marseilles gives it decidedly the advantage. There are few streets on the European continent superior to the *Cours*. Side pavements have been made in many of the streets. Very good coffee houses are found in several parts of this town, but the restaurateurs are greatly inferior to those of Paris. The public edifices possess but little to attract the curiosity of a traveller. The Hotel de Ville, which serves also as a custom house, is a fine building, the architecture of which, as well as that of many other edifices, attest

the great merit of Puget, one of the most distinguished architects and painters of France, and a native of Marseilles. The observatory is a building of simple construction, but charmingly situated for observation: and the contributions it has made to astronomy, under the management of its present director, M. Pons, especially in the discovery of comets, are an evidence at once of his merits as an observer, and of the clearness and serenity of the atmosphere of this region.

Marseilles is a busy place, though quite inferior, in commercial activity, to New-York or Liverpool. One meets frequently, in the streets, men dressed in the costume of the Levant, with a large turban, long whiskers, and bag trowsers, like double petticoats, gathered and tied under the knee.

The neighbourhood of the city, contains a great number of summer residences, called Bastides, amounting, according to common estimation, to at least 5000. But though these improvements add greatly to the scenery, enjoyed from the eminences near the town, the beauty of the perspective is much diminished, by the dry and desolate aspect of the high hills, which environ the city, and adjacent gardens.

Of the state of society here, I can say nothing, our stay being too short, to seek for, or to accept of invitations: but from the little we saw, and from the best information we obtained, the conclusion is unavoidable, that licentiousness prevails to a great extent, and that morals are at a very low ebb. In adverting to the principal public walks of Marseilles, a French writer observes: "*Elle réunissent le beau monde de Marseilles, tous les dimanches et fêtes: on sait qu'il y-a que ces jours pour la promenade dans les villes*"

de commerce." The city is well watered. Fountains of marble, of a neat construction, are pouring out constant streams, in many of the streets, along which the water flows in great abundance. An ancient aqueduct, is still employed to bring water from a neighbouring elevation. It passes over one of the principal streets.

From the extended commerce of Marseilles, it is very much exposed to the introduction of pestilential diseases, particularly the plague from Africa and the Levant; and the yellow fever from Spain and the West-Indies. But the vigilance and energy with which their quarantine regulations are enforced, have generally preserved the city from infection, when many of the neighbouring countries were suffering from its ravages. The harbour is admirably fitted for the strict execution of quarantine laws. The island of Pomègue, in the outer harbour, has an excellent position, for arresting vessels which enter. The crews of infected ships, obtain provisions which are deposited for them, in a particular place, and their money is received, steeped in vinegar. They can see their friends, only through a double grate, which prevents all contact. Every violation of the quarantine, is punished with death. So secure are these regulations considered, that the arrival of a vessel, in the outward harbour, with the plague on board, gives no uneasiness; and vessels, which have been repulsed from all other parts of the Mediterranean, have been received here without difficulty. These rigorous and effectual measures are the result of severe suffering. In the year 1720, about one half the population of the city, was cut off by the plague. Marseilles is not so ex-

tensive in circumference, as Bordeaux and Lyons, but its population, if stated correctly, is quite as great. It has been noted, in some of the public documents, as high as 110,000, but this appears to me to be much exaggerated.

The coast of the Mediterranean is infested, in the summer and autumn, with innumerable swarms of moschetos, which the French call "cousins." In the evening, and during the night, their attacks are truly formidable. No sleep can be enjoyed, and nothing can defend the body from their venomous stings, either in or out of the houses, but to shut the doors and windows, and thus subject one's self, to a stifling atmosphere, or, to surround the bed with curtains of thin gauze. These curtains, the French denominate "cousinières." We were not much troubled with these insects, it being too late in the season; but from the accounts given of them, they are as great an annoyance here, as on the sea board of the United States. Scorpions are said to be not uncommon in the south of France, entering the houses, and even penetrating the bed-rooms. These are much more dreadful than moschetoes, from the extremely virulent nature of their sting.

The climate of this part of the Mediterranean, as well as at Genoa, is acknowledged to be very changeable. It is subject to a wind from the north-east, which prevails throughout the whole of Provence, especially along the Rhone, and continues during the greater part of the year. It is sometimes extremely violent. In particular districts, the large trees are almost all inclined to the south-west, and are frequently torn up by the roots. This wind is called the *mis-*

tral. Notwithstanding its violence, and its chilling effect upon the atmosphere, it is considered by the inhabitants, upon the whole, as extremely salutary, in dispersing the noxious vapours which accumulate on the borders of the sea and rivers. But it renders the climate, as before stated, liable to sudden and frequent variation of temperature; making it necessary, sometimes, to change garments, more than once, in the course of the day.

We left Marseilles, at seven in the evening, in the diligence, for Avignon. The roads were extremely dusty, from the continuance of dry weather. As it was dark when we arrived at Aix, (and we stopped only to change horses,) we had no opportunity of noticing the appearance of the town, further than that the street, through which we passed, was wide, and lined with double rows of high trees. This town according to our printed guide, is exceedingly well built, and contains 18,000 inhabitants. It has numerous public fountains, of which there are several that produce streams which flow through different quarters, furnishing, in summer, the means of refreshing and cleaning the streets. The country, in the immediate neighbourhood produces the best oil for domestic purposes, which is obtained on the Mediterranean.

As we approached the Durance, we experienced the mistral in a most uncomfortable degree. It blew with a tempestuous sweep along the valley of that river, involving us in clouds of dust, which was the more insupportable from its being derived from a calcareous, and apparently from a sterile soil. The storm, however, to our great satisfaction, ended in

copious rain. Passing in the night through St. Cannat and Pont Royal, we breakfasted at Orgon, a miserable, dirty looking village of fifteen hundred inhabitants. The houses are of stone, the streets narrow and filthy, no sidewalks, and no appearance of decency around the houses. We were provided with a tolerably good breakfast, but the inn was otherwise disgusting. We had received at Aix, an accession of five persons to the inside of the coach. Two of them were young men of about twenty, going to Paris to pursue the study of law at the public schools. They were accompanied by a sister of one of them, a girl of fifteen, whose object was also to finish her education. The other two were boys of twelve or thirteen, destined likewise for some boarding school in the metropolis. We were at first amused with the sprightliness of this young group. They appeared to be leaving home without any of those emotions of parting grief, and foreboding of trouble, which require the lenient interference of aunts and cousins, and the kind sympathy of old domestics. The gaiety and high life of the metropolis, were depicted in strong colours on their imaginations, and glee and merriment were the only fruits of their anticipation. Sleep was banished from their eyes. One of the oldest entered the coach with a fiddle in his hand, determined to be merry, however annoying it might be to us. This want of good breeding, or what at least we considered as such, soon became as conspicuous as their vivacity. They were altogether deficient in the native modesty of youth. Their conversation had a constant inclination to indelicate and obscene allusion, and no reprimand could make any

durable impression upon them. The sister listened to the discourse of the young men, with a sort of stifled pleasure, and though less open than they, it was evidently an entertainment to which she was accustomed. Under almost any circumstances in England or America, a company of young persons, leaving home on a long journey, for the purposes of education, would excite a lively interest in a stage coach, and form an agreeable addition to the company. It was much the reverse in this instance, though the young men evidently possessed good talents, and belonged to some of the most considerable families at Aix. National character could scarcely have appeared in a less favourable point of view.

As we approached the Durance, the soil became more fertile and the houses were in better style. We crossed this river, which is occasionally swelled to a torrent by the mountain streams, at Bonpas, on a finely constructed wooden bridge, of prodigious length, and entered the gates of Avignon in a heavy rain. We here found it necessary to wait till the next day, for want of further room in the diligence, our seats being reserved for passengers arriving from Nismes. This disappointment we less regretted, as it relieved us from our uncouth fellow travellers, and their impertinent fiddle.

Avignon is strongly walled in and defended by ramparts. Its position, immediately on the Rhone, which is here a tolerably wide, though not a deep river, is very pleasant. But the interior of the town is not inviting. The streets are narrow and crooked, and the dark stone houses have the same clumsy and uncomfortable appearance which is seen in the villages we

have passed through. We went into the cathedral and perceived the same ceremonies I have noticed in other places. Priests officiating before the altars, and a few poor looking objects at their devotions in different parts of the building. There are no benches or fixed seats in the Catholic churches. A great number of old chairs are piled up on one side of the area, and when a person enters to say mass, he takes a chair, and puts it in any part of the house he wishes, except in places specifically appropriated. A stranger may go in, and move about among the company, and view the building, even behind the altar, without disturbing the exercises, or claiming much of the attention of the audience.

Avignon is famous for having once been the Papal residence, during the greater part of a century. Seven popes in succession, resided here, from Clement V. to Gregory II. The palace is now in ruins. Among the curiosities of the town, we were shown an old and decayed tower, which was used as a prison, during the revolution. It was crowded with victims; and, as the most summary mode of getting clear of some, to make room for others, those selected for destruction were taken to the top of the tower, and thrown headlong on the pavement below. My blood was chilled, as I looked down from the dizzy height, and reflected on the sanguinary horrors of that most guilty period. How can the nation ever atone to Heaven and humanity for its unparalleled enormities? Alas! it is to be feared, that there are few, very few indeed, in the whole kingdom, who think or believe, that national sins are followed by national punishments; or, who will once admit, that the humiliations and sufferings,

which they have recently sustained, are to be regarded in the light of a divine retribution. I do not mean to insinuate, that there are not, in different parts of the country, some pious minds, who can trace, in the nation's history, the dealings of a righteous Providence with his people, and who secretly mourn over the wickedness that still prevails, and the ferocity that so much characterized the events of the last thirty years. But the sentiment of piety—of a humble and habitual reference of our actions to the will of God, and a sincere dependence on him for direction and protection—this sentiment, I fear, has never been interwoven, if I may so speak, into the constitution of the people; nor can it ever be by any revolution merely political. Much, however, may be hoped for, from the rapid extension of education, the multiplication of judicious books, and especially, that best of all books, the Bible. What can really be expected of a people, as it regards the influence and operation of vital Christianity upon their lives and actions, among whom the Bible is not known, or least known only to those, who maintain that it is of no use, unless it receive their particular and authorised interpretations? It would be utterly impossible, I apprehend, for any one to point out a single country, or extensive district of country, on the whole globe, in which the mild fruits of the Gospel are apparent, where the Bible is not possessed, and regarded as a domestic treasure;—a bond of union between parents and children, husbands and wives, masters and servants. That this is the fact, throughout the greater part of England, Scotland, and the United States, and perhaps other Protestant countries, and that its effects are all important, no person,

intimately acquainted with these countries, will, I trust, deny. That this is not the fact, with respect to France, is also evident; for here the Bible is a sealed book. It is withheld from the people. They are taught to believe that these things may be safely left to those that have the management of their spiritual concerns, just as their political relations are confided to the care of their magistrates and governors.

We were gratified in visiting the hotel des invalids, at Avignon. It is a hospital for the relief and maintenance of wounded soldiers, corresponding in its design with that at Greenwich, in England. It is the second establishment of the kind in France; the first and largest being in Paris. This institution contains about 1200 of the shattered frames of those devotees of *Mars*, who, without doubt, was the most senseless and ferocious of all the heathen deities, but (strange infatuation) still the most popular among Christians. These invalids occupy three old convents. They are well provided for; great attention being paid to cleanliness, and decency of appearance. They all dress alike, and have a new suit once in two years. They receive forty sous per month. One of the refectories contained thirty round tables, each calculated for twelve persons to dine at comfortably. This arrangement was considered more convenient than long ranges of oblong tables.

Avignon and its neighbourhood are famous for having been the residence of Petrarch and Laura. Vaucluse and its fountain, the immediate theatre of their extraordinary loves and ditties, are about six leagues from this town. The tomb of Laura *was* there, but it is said to be nearly destroyed by the curiosity

of strangers. We were too anxious to proceed on our journey, to diverge so far from our track, as Vaucluse.

Avignon is in the centre of a delightful country, finely diversified by verdant meadows, cultivated fields, and hills covered with olives. The coup d'œil enjoyed from the tower was exceedingly beautiful. The meanderings of the Rhone were visible, at a great distance, above and below the town. The river, by a separation and subsequent reunion, forms a large island, near the city, on the north, which adds greatly to the beauty and luxuriance of the landscape. The Alps rear their lofty, but softened, elevations in the distant horizon. This town has considerable trade, but the Rhone is too shallow to admit vessels of large burden. This river, so famous in history, would make a poor figure, in comparison with twenty streams that might be named in the United States, as it regards its size and commercial advantages.

6th. We left Avignon, at seven in the evening, with five inside passengers. At Orange, eighteen miles distant, we took in another, who, as we soon found from his conversation, was a lawyer, from the neighbourhood of Nismes. One of those inside was a female, who proved to be a Jewess. She was going to Paris, without any particular acquaintance in the diligence, as a convoy. She was of middle age, and of genteel appearance. Orange contains 7 or 8000 inhabitants, and is not situated immediately on the Rhone. It was a place of some distinction in the time of the Romans, under the name of Arausio; and during the French revolution it was the seat of the famous revolutionary committee, which spread so much consternation in the south of France.

7th. We rode through Mornas, La Palud, Donzere, and stopped to dine at Montlimart, a town of 6000 inhabitants, but of a forbidding aspect, dark and foul, like the generality of those we have seen, in the south of France. The hotel, however, was good; the dinner well served up, and the maids, which waited on the table, ready enough to pass jokes with our lawyer, and in a way to his liking. The conversation in our stage company, though more varied and intelligent, had the same licentious bearing as in the young group from Aix. Between the lawyer and the Jewess there was a style of gallantry that would hardly be tolerated in the English language.

Our road, during this day, continued generally within view of the Rhone, sometimes on its banks, but always on the east side of it. The shores of the river are flat, and subject to frequent and sudden inundations, which, in some places, commit ravages, in the destruction of houses, cattle, and even travellers, who are not sufficiently on their guard. The road, in consequence of these overflowings, is covered with rounded stones, which render it painfully rough. The country along the river, though sometimes presenting an agreeable landscape, has, upon the whole, an arid and sterile appearance, and with this the villages and towns mostly correspond. There is a general evidence of semi barbarism in its aspect, curiously blended with antiquity; and I can easily imagine, that in travelling through this part of France, as well as through the valley of the Upper Rhone, one may form a pretty correct notion of the state of society, and of the manners, which distinguished the fifteenth century.

We supped at Valence, a walled town of 8 or 9000 people. The entrance and exit, are by the same gate; so that, unless the traveller has business within the walls, he merely passes half way round its ramparts, and continues his journey. There is very little, indeed, in the interior, to invite his entrance, unless it be the stimulus of appetite, or the want of a night's repose. In an old cathedral are preserved the heart and entrails of Pope Pius VI., who died in this town, on the 29th of August, 1799. Valence, uninviting as it is, derives some importance, however, in the opinion of its inhabitants, from its being the place where Napoleon the Great, received his early education. The inhabitants, it is said, well remember to have seen him rambling over the hills, with an instrument, or a book in his hand, always with a countenance indicating deep reflection, devoting himself to study, and wasting no time whatever, in the pleasures natural to youth.

The French stages on the great roads, travel by night as well as by day. We crossed the Isere about midnight, in a large boat. This is a deep and rapid river, which rises in the Alps near the little St. Bernard, and empties into the Rhone. The road beyond this river became very much restricted by the mountains on our right, the path between which and the Rhone, was, in some places, only of sufficient width for carriages safely to pass. In this neighbourhood is the place called "l'Hermitage," celebrated for producing the best wine, both red and white, which is made in France. The soil was examined by Saussure, and found to consist chiefly of the ruins of granite. The village of Annonay, on the opposite

side of the Rhone, is distinguished for its paper manufactories. Montgolfier, the famous inventor of balloons, resided here, and by his ingenuity, expedited very materially, the improvement and perfection of French paper. It is still, however, very far below English paper in beauty and fineness. In strength it is, in general, greatly superior; and this is a very important quality, as it promotes the durability, and of course, the value, of books and manuscripts. Passing through Tain, St. Vallier, St. Rambert, and Auberive, we reached Vienne at ten o'clock, to breakfast. It was the first day of the week, but there was no appearance of a suspension of business. The shops were open, and people were pursuing their ordinary avocations. This town is remarkable for its antiquity. The records of its foundation, carry it to a much earlier period than that of Lyons, with which it long contended for the preeminence of being considered as the first city of southern Gaul. It is mentioned in Cesar's Commentaries, and by Martial, who calls it *pulchra Vienna*. It now contains 10 or 12,000 inhabitants. On entering the town, we noticed a curious obelisk near the road, about forty feet high, supported by four pillars of stone. It is considered as an ancient cenotaph, but for whom erected, is not known. The cathedral of this town is a handsome Gothic edifice, the gate of which is most curiously carved. We had an opportunity of taking a hasty look at it, while breakfast was preparing. It contains several very fine monuments, particularly one of Archbishop Montmorin. Vienne, though less forbidding, than some of the towns I have passed through on the Rhone, is badly built. There are mines of lead in

the neighbourhood, and on the opposite shore is the region which produces the famous wine, called Côte Rotie. St. Simphorien and St. Phons are villages between Vienne and Lyons. We arrived in the latter city about six p. m., and took up our quarters at the Hotel du Nord.

Our route from Marseilles, has, upon the whole, been much less interesting than I had anticipated. from a journey of equal extent through the south of France. The valley through which the Rhone flows, varies greatly in width. The banks of the river are low, in general, nor is the defect of scenery compensated by superior cultivation. The current is very rapid, affording an easy transport for goods down the river, but tedious in the ascent. The water, I should apprehend, is too shallow and too irregular, to justify the expectation of any material benefit from steam navigation.

With regard to the state of society in this part of France, I am obliged to infer, as far as my hasty opportunities will justify a conclusion, that it has by no means kept pace with the progress of knowledge,—that it is some centuries behind the capital and its neighbourhood,—that it can have made but little advancement since the days of feudalism,—that it is incomparably less civilized than any part of the United States, where white settlements have been twenty years established.

There is, I fear, but too much truth in the description given of the people of this part of France, by one of their own writers.

“Je le dis à regret, notre patrie, asile antique des mœurs, est aujourd’hui le séjour du luxe et de la

licence. Le Luxe y confond tous les rangs, la licence y est effrénée. Père de famille garde toi d'envoyer là ton fils, si son innocence et sa santé te sont chères !

“ En general, la jeunesse de ce pays est non seulement débauchée, mais plus depravée encore qu'on ne le remarque dans toutes les villes maritimes. Certains quartiers, (alluding to Marseilles,) regorgent de filles perdues. Les environs de la Comédie, sont le réceptacle d'une légion de prostituées. Les portes et les fenêtres en sont garnies, à toutes les heures du jour et de la nuit.

“ Nos paysans des environs d'Aix, de Marseilles, et de Toulon, sont une race d'hommes brutale et dure à l'excès. N'attendez d'eux aucun acte de complaisance et de bonté. Ils vous verraient vous égarer et prendre un chemin dangereux, qu'au lieu de vous indiquer votre route, ils riraient méchamment de votre erreur. Si la soif vous presse dans ces routes brûlantes et poudreuses, gardez-vous de cueillir une grappe. Je ne répons pas qu'un coup de fusil ne vous étende au pied du cep.” &c.

LETTER XIX.

Paris, 11th month, (Novem.) 15th, 1818.

MY DEAR ***** AND *****,

On the ninth inst. as we were walking on the banks of the Rhone at Lyons, I was suddenly accosted by name, by a voice behind me. It proved to be from two of my New-York friends, of whose arrival in Eu-

rope, I had not heard a syllable. Our meeting was purely accidental, and, as you will easily imagine, quite as agreeable as unexpected. The sympathy which two fellow countrymen, who may not even have had a previous acquaintance, feel for each other on casually meeting in a foreign land, is a matter of almost proverbial remark. Judge then of the effect of being accosted in this way, by two intimate and particular friends! If any thing could diminish the satisfaction of this agreeable occurrence, it was the information that they had left home on account of health, and were bound to the south of Italy, to experience the benefit of that mild climate during the winter. We spent much of our time together during our short stay in Lyons.

10th. In a book store this morning, I met with a discourse on education, recently pronounced before the Academical Society of Lyons, by a Dr. Gilibert. The style and sentiments were so interesting as to induce me to call on the author, and introduce myself. I found him to be a humane and agreeable, as well as learned gentleman, of considerable rank as a practitioner of physic. He conducted me to the school of mutual instruction. It occupies a building formerly used as a church, finely situated on the heights of Le Fourviers. The school contained about 360 boys. They were just concluding the exercises of the day by prayer. One of the boys, mounted on a stage, was *reciting* the prayer while the school, all standing, responded to different parts of it. Corporeal punishment is seldom resorted to. The teacher is a *militaire*, who, disgusted with the profession of arms, and wishing to employ himself usefully, had resolved upon

opening a school among the peasantry. The committee of Lyons very opportunely discovered his talent, and employed him. On breaking up the school the delinquent pupils were arranged in the yard, and made to kneel on the ground, while the other boys filed off before them. This appeared to be sufficiently humiliating to the poor culprits, to answer the purpose of a corrective. The "frères Chrétiens," who have long had the almost exclusive controul of education, are extremely opposed to the new system. Their prejudices arise not merely from the diminution of their authority and influence, which these new and popular schools will occasion, but from their being solemnly bound by the terms of their confederacy to teach only on one particular system; a system adapted to the promotion of their own ecclesiastical influence. The immense advantage, however, of a different course, is now becoming so obvious, they will not long be able to resist its impulse. Dr. Gilibert informed us that the care of the poor in this part of France, is under the direction of associations called tribunals of charity, the management of which is confided chiefly or entirely to the priests. The hospital of Lyons, he considers as too large to answer the most beneficial purpose, and its situation in the midst of the city, as unfavourable to the speedy recovery of the patients. The number of cures, he stated to be in the proportion of one to ten.

Having engaged our seats to Paris, by way of the Soane, a route altogether different from that by which I came to Lyons, Dr. S. and myself set off at five this morning, in the "coche du Saône," a large boat. adapted to the accommodation of fifty passengers, and

drawn by horses. This was to me a mode of travelling, perfectly novel, and I found it extremely pleasant. The shores of the Saône are picturesque, and the cultivation is greatly superior to that on the Rhone. Our coach was drawn by two, three, four, or five horses, according to the force of the current, there being relays of horses at each point on the river, where a change was necessary. The rapidity with which we advanced, surprised me. The horses were generally kept on a full trot, and sometimes driven into a gallop, the postillions riding sideways, with their backs to the river. At a point not far from Lyons, where the river makes a long bend, I joined part of our company, who left the boat, to walk a few miles across the peninsula. It was a charming excursion, the morning pleasant, and the company all in good humour. We passed the remains of a house, that had been occupied by Rousseau, (Jean Jacques.) He was a warm admirer of the romantic, in natural scenery, and his vivid imagination seemed dissatisfied with any other than a situation corresponding with the extravagance of his fancy. Having rejoined our water coach, we continued on our route, stopping at a small village to breakfast, with as much ease as if we had been travelling on a turnpike road. Our "coche" was nearly full of passengers, among whom was a greater proportion of corpulent men, than I should probably have met with, on a similar occasion, on the widest canal in England. We were greeted on the shore, by the females of the inn, with that frankness and naïveté, which are peculiar to the French. They gave us their hands, and escorted us to the house, where we were served with an excellent breakfast, "à la four-

chette ;" consisting of two kinds of soup, roasted and boiled chickens, mutton chops, veal, fricandeau, spinage, potatoes, eggs, macaroni, kidneys, beef, boiled fish with caper sauce, pies, two kinds of wine, (half a bottle each,) salad, and coffee. The price of this luxurious repast, was fifty-seven sous, equal to as many cents of our currency. Including the wine, such a meal, in New-York, would doubtless cost more than double that sum. We passed on the Saône, some boats loaded with large sacks, full of the husks of Indian corn. It is used in the manufacture of several articles, and sells, I was told, for fifteen francs per quintal, (hundred weight.) Some of these boats were rowed by women. The river increased in width, as we ascended, and the country and scenery became more rich and expanded.

We arrived at six, P. M. at Macon, where we were to lodge. As it was not dark, we had time to survey the town. It contains 10 or 11,000 inhabitants, and is situated immediately on the west bank of the Saône. The quay is new, and uncommonly well built. It affords a most agreeable promenade, the river itself being an interesting object, heightened as it is, by an island opposite the lower end of the town. A stone bridge across the Saône, connects Macon with Saint Laurent, on the east, which may be considered as its suburbs. There are several good buildings on the river, but the interior of the town is dark and uninteresting. We found good quarters at the hotel de L'Europe, a very large and commodious inn. From the shore of the river, a distant view of the Alps is frequently obtained.

12th. At a quarter past two, we were called up to

embark again in our "coche du Saône," still favoured with delightful weather. The boats we met on the river, were numerous. The Soane passes through an alluvial country, which renders its shores almost universally fertile.

We arrived at Chalons sur Saône, the head of our navigation, before twelve. This town is pleasantly situated on the western side, with a fine quay, and a handsome stone bridge, surmounted with obelisks. It enjoys considerable trade. The canal of the centre, which unites the Saône and the Loire, joins the former at this place. Chalons contains 11 or 12,000 inhabitants, and is well built. We had ample time, before dinner, to visit the hospital of Saint Laurent, situated on an island in the river. We were readily admitted, and politely attended by the amiable sisters, whose government in this establishment, does them the highest credit. It contained 168 patients, and though inconvenient, as it regards the structure of the house, which is not modern, it affords a model of neatness and good order. It is well supplied with baths for the patients. They are filled from an elevated reservoir, into which the water is driven from a well, by a forcing pump in the court. The "pharmacie" was as neat as possible. This hospital was visited by the present pope, a circumstance which forms, in the estimation of the fair sisters, a grand epoch in the history of their hospital. A monument has been erected to commemorate the visit of so august a person.

Having dined, we took the diligence, and rode through a delightful country, clothed with vines and verdure. We reached Autun at ten o'clock, and with difficulty obtained a supper of bad coffee, at a

miserable inn. Autun is a considerable town, on the Arroux, a stream which empties into the Loire. It is noted for the number of Roman antiquities it contains, such as old walls, gateways, coins, &c. The country grew more hilly as we advanced into Burgundy. Continuing our journey through the night, we reached Avallon at eleven o'clock, to breakfast. This is a manufacturing town of 6000 inhabitants. The vicinage is so hilly as to give it somewhat the appearance of a Swiss village. Lucy le Bois and Vermanton, the latter a little town of 2500, are on the road between Avallon and Auxerre. At the last mentioned place we found good accommodations for the night. We have travelled to-day, through a calcareous region, generally adapted to the vine, though in some places a more profitable crop is found in grain. Most of these towns, have more or less of the same lurid aspect as those in the south, though they afford decided evidences of a superior condition of society, as we approach the great city. Mendicants assail us in almost every place. The arts which they practice to work upon our charity, are sometimes diverting. While under rapid way in our boat, in the middle of the Saône, the boys and girls of this class, would run to the shore and put forth their petitions in clamorous strains. I was at loss to conceive in what way they expected to receive our gifts, but soon found that they wished us to toss them our sous, by a lusty jerk, to the shore. This was frequently done, but so as to cause the money to fall into the water, in order to witness their plunges and scrambles to obtain it. The passengers would occasionally excite their hopes by calling to them to *faire le roue*, (make the wheel.)

They would immediately spread out their arms and whirl over the ground on their hands and feet like a hoop, for a considerable distance. Girls as well as boys practise this art with dexterity. As the stage passes through a town, the passengers are accosted by mendicants in considerable numbers, but always with more civility and good humour than one meets with in other countries. They often endeavour to work upon the vanity of those they address, finding it, probably, the readiest channel to the purse. *Vive les braves gens de la diligence*, is a salutation we often received from them, as they were scampering by the side of the carriage; and, catching a glimpse of a black fur cap in which I rode, *vive le brave Monsieur en bonnet noir*, was the address by which my pride and charity were to be stimulated. But a refusal to give is seldom attended with a reproach. One rarely meets in France, with that audacious mendicity, which is the character of some other countries. But frequent as are the applications to our charity, the situation of the lower classes, must be wonderfully improved since the time of Louis XVI., if, as Chamfort asserts, there were before the Revolution, seven millions of men who demanded alms, and twelve millions that were not in a condition to give them any. There is no such appalling beggary to be seen at the present time.

Auxerre is an antiquated town, on the eastern bank of the Yonne, a river which joins the Seine. The clock of one of the towers is so old as to retain its Gothic characters. A hundred and twenty thousand cords of wood, from the forests above, are annually floated down the river, past this town, for the benefit of the capital. Auxerre contains 12,000 inhabitants.

14th. Joigny, and Villeneuve, where we breakfasted, are populous villages on the Yonne. The latter is very pleasant. The country abounds in grain and vines. We crossed the river at Pont sur Yonne, after passing through Sens, which has a population of 10,000. The road, after crossing the Yonne, extends along its left bank to Montereau, where it joins the Seine. This village, at the junction of the two rivers, enjoys a lively trade, and its situation is unusually agreeable. We here entered upon a range of chalk hills, which continued to Paris. This formation extends, indeed, along the Seine, on one or both of its shores, to the western coast of France, and is no doubt, connected with the extensive chalk formations in England. The soil upon it is often thin; but, judging from the appearance of the country along the Seine, it is, at least in this region, pretty well adapted to the vine.

At Melun, where we supped, about ten o'clock, we were visited by three gens d'armes, who came into the inn, inspected the role d'équipage of our conducteur, and examined our passports, to see that none but honest men were going into the royal city of Paris. Nothing, I believe, was found amiss. Melun stands upon the Seine. It has 6000 inhabitants, and is celebrated by nothing, says a French traveller, so much as by an old proverb, "Melun eels cry before they are skinned." He gives the origin of this proverb, which, if true, as it probably is, shows how fond the French people are of sport. They were representing at Melun, by way of amusement, (or perhaps it was a religious ceremony,) the martyrdom of St. Bartholomew, who, according to the tradition of the

church, was flayed alive. A man, named Eel, (Languille,) who was to act the part of the saint, was tied to a cross, under the pretence of being stripped of his skin. But, on the approach of the executioner, with a drawn knife in his hand, and in the attitude of beginning the operation, the saintship of Eel forsook him, and he cried out aloud, with apprehension. This exceedingly amused the spectators, and gave rise to the proverb, the “Eel cries before it is skinned.” (L’anguille crie avant qu’on l’ecorche.)

We left Melun, at midnight, and passing through the villages of Lieursant, Villeneuve, Saint-Georges, and Charenton, arrived at the Barrier of Paris, before the day broke.

15th. The drowsy porter slowly opened the gate, and we drove rapidly to the large court in the *Rue Notre Dames des Victoires*, where the diligences assemble from all parts of France. As we passed through the streets, no one was seen except a few *chiffoniers* or rag pickers, who pursue their occupation when undisturbed by the crowd. By the time the day dawned, however, the streets were alive with the busy multitude, engaged in their almost infinitely varied concerns. The Parisians, as I have before noticed, are more early risers than English or American citizens. After rambling, at the still hour, along the quays of the Seine, and enjoying an early morning’s perspective from the Pont des Arts, we entered the first good coffee house that we found open, and refreshed ourselves, after a fatiguing journey, with an excellent cup of *café au lait*.

Although it is but little more than two months since I left Paris, the impression, upon arriving here again,

is like that of a return to old friends, and an advancement by no means inconsiderable, from the extremity of my journey, towards home.

The various parts of France through which I have passed, since first landing at Dieppe, doubtless comprehend some of the fairest portions of this extensive and interesting country. It is blest with a healthful climate;—a climate, as it appears to me, decidedly superior to our own,—more favourable to complexion, to general and vigorous health, and less liable to those frequent and sudden transitions of temperature which occur in the United States. The atmosphere of France is probably more moist than ours, but this I should not infer from any thing that I have seen, for the ground has been parched with drought, during the summer and autumn. I have experienced no weather, however, in any part of Europe, which I should consider so agreeable as the mild and delightful temperature, the clear and balmy atmosphere, which we enjoy, at least, in the northern and middle states, during the autumnal months. But, complexion excepted, the French are not, in my opinion, a better looking race than the anglo Americans. Their medium stature is, I think, below our own, in both sexes. With respect to female beauty, it cannot be a subject of dispute, so far as it relates to delicacy of features and complexion, to all that belongs to countenance and expression. But in shape and gracefulness of motion, the balance is most decidedly in favour of Parisian accomplishments.

The soil of France, at a medium, appeared to me less fertile than that of the United States. It is doubtless better suited to the grape, even on an equality of

climate, but this does not imply greater strength or fertility. The districts in which the vine is the chief dependence of the farmer, are not, I believe, those in which the condition of the people is the most comfortable. The light wine of France is indeed an extremely salutary and pleasant beverage, and I can readily believe that a person once accustomed to it, would wish for nothing better. It varies greatly in quality as produced in different parts of the country, being materially affected by slight variations in soil. That which is usually transported to America from Bourdeaux, under the name of claret, is seldom of the best, but very often of the worst kind. The grape is also one of the most delicious of fruits. We have partaken of it freely as a table dessert for nearly three months. An epicure could scarcely desire a more agreeable conclusion to his repast. The pears of France are excellent, but the markets do not furnish them in much better quality than our own. The peaches are large and of a remarkably fine appearance, but not of so rich and agreeable a flavour as those of New-York and the states further south. I found none that had not more or less of an astringent or acid taste.

There is another fruit which is very important as an article of nourishment, in France, Switzerland and all the southern parts of Europe. This is the fruit of the *fagus castanea*, or common chesnut. The variety cultivated in Europe, bears a nut about four times as large as the chesnut common with us. It is used by the poor in some places instead of bread, and in almost every town, roasted marrons, (as they are called) are exposed for sale in the streets. A single

sous will procure a dozen of them, hot from the pan, (for they are roasted in the streets,) a quantity sufficient to make a nutritious meal. So extensively are they used, particularly by the lower classes, as an article of food, it appeared to me, that they deserve to be ranked in importance next to the grape. This large kind of chesnut has not yet been much cultivated in the United States. Of the fitness of our soil for its production, and of its great utility, I have no doubt. The apples of France are much inferior to ours. Cider is scarcely known as a table beverage.

Of the condition of the French peasantry, either physical or moral, I have had too slight opportunities of judging to form a deliberate opinion. So far as a conclusion may be drawn from the appearance of the villages, on the great roads, the result is abundantly in favour of England, and still more so of America. But I am aware that there may be much fallacy in drawing a general conclusion from premises so slight as a rapid march through the country in a public vehicle, can be supposed to furnish; and I wish to leave the reader fully at liberty to judge from the facts presented to his notice. The happiness of a people, (which after all is the point to be considered,) depends so much upon national temperament, that in a comparison between the two countries, the balance of enjoyment may be in favour of that, whose physical condition, in the eye of one who is a stranger to both, may appear to be the least promising. In this respect, the French have generally been considered as peculiarly fortunate. Their natural vivacity of temper, and their love of amusement, seem to be regarded as an equivalent for worldly comforts; and it

has been supposed, that the shafts of adverse fortune, fall innocuous at the feet of a nation, whose buoyancy of spirits enables them to float unhurt upon a sea of trouble, and to rise with unimpaired vigour, when its billows subside. That the French possess these dispositions in a very remarkable degree, no one can doubt, who has seen and known them. Their love of amusement, and their willingness to be amused, are highly characteristic of the whole nation. There is scarcely a town of any note, or even a populous village, from Dieppe to Marseilles, that has not its *Salle à Comedie*, its *Caffès*, and its promenades, where variety spreads its never ending charms for the young and the old. The Sabbath, as I have already stated, is generally a holiday of enjoyment; and besides these, their fêtes occur very frequently, and furnish extraordinary occasions for festivity and mirth. But, to judge correctly, it is necessary to look beyond these seasons of hilarity. This dancing philosophy, it will be acknowledged, may possibly be only superficial, and beneath the surface may lurk other passions, which more than counterbalance these festive propensities.

Genuine happiness has been considered by moralists, as of a calm and sedate nature, and a stranger to revelry and noise. It may, I think, be fairly questioned, whether, on a broad survey of human nature, any condition of society can be found, which is entitled to the dignified name of happiness, in which Christian principles are not the rule of action, and Christian virtues the daily practice. The precepts of our Saviour are so admirably suited to the nature of the human mind, to the harmony of all its passions,

that beyond the sphere of their influence, true happiness cannot be found. They exclude not the highest and most diligent exercise of intellectual power, nor the most refined and graceful sensibilities of the heart. Nor is it to be believed, that a strict conformity to their injunctions, would exclude any one custom or indulgence, which is necessary, either to national or individual happiness. But, separate from a conviction of their divine and eternal obligation, these precepts are not likely to be the governing principle of men's lives and actions. In a nation of *professing* Christians, this observation applies with peculiar force; and exactly in proportion as infidelity on the one hand, and a selfish bigotry on the other, predominate, may we look for the prevalence of those passions which debase society, and corrode its happiness. That there should be so little evidence of this practical, homeborn Christianity, in this country, and in all those where the ministers of religion are the most numerous, is deeply to be regretted.

Were the mild and attractive graces of a pure faith, and the divine energies of true Christian philosophy, to be superadded to the natural urbanity, and the spontaneous benevolence of the French, it is easy to conceive that there is no nation in the world, in which the human character would be exhibited in a more engaging light, and where all that is delightful in society, both in its external forms and its internal spirit, would be more conspicuous.

LETTER XX.

Paris, 11th month, (Novem.) 30, 1818.

MY DEAR *****,

FOR the sake of being in the neighbourhood of the schools, we engaged private lodgings on the south side of the river. Three rooms were obtained, at sixty francs per month. "Comme messieurs sont Quakres," said Madame Rousseau, the landlady, on our acceptance of her terms, "ce n'est pas necessaires, les arrhes." This testimony to the reputation of our cloth, was not ineffectually addressed to our feelings. I wish it was universally just.

As one of my objects is to become acquainted with the character and manner of the public schools, and with some of their Professors, I shall devote much of my time to the attendance of lectures.

16th. I attended the Institute to-day, and had once more the pleasure of an interview with Berthollet, Gay Lussac, Thenard, Chaptal, and Berzelius.

The weather is so cold, as to render a fire in our sitting room an essential comfort. The price of wood, notwithstanding that it is almost the only fuel used in Paris, is not much higher than it has been in New-York for some years past. It is floated down the Seine from the national forests, and piled up in public yards to dry.

21st. With Count Lasteyrie, on whom I called this morning, I had some conversation relative to a project of forming a great "European Society for promoting the public good." A project of this kind has

been talked of among a few individuals. It originated, I believe, with Professor Pictet of Geneva, from whom I received the first hints respecting it. The beneficent object of this society, would be to concentrate the wisdom and experience of public spirited and benevolent men, in all the countries of Europe, or, as far as it can be done, of the whole civilized world, on subjects connected with general welfare and improvement; but more especially with the amelioration of the condition of the labouring classes. The severe pressure which has fallen upon them in every country of Europe, in consequence, perhaps, in part, of the rapid multiplication of labour-saving machinery, calls loudly upon the intelligent and benevolent everywhere, for sympathy and relief. The best means of distributing the comforts of life, without interfering with the necessary and unavoidable distinctions of society, is one of the most important problems in political economy. It is a question which is now forcing itself upon the consideration of governments and nations, and which involves in its consequences, not only the happiness of the people, but the stability of their political institutions. The idea, therefore, of a concentrated effort by the whole of enlightened Europe, deserves the most serious attention. If a general society could be formed, consisting of deputies from the several countries of Europe, distinguished for their humanity and intelligence, and bringing with them a perfect acquaintance with the most successful schemes that have been practised in their respective nations, there might result such a body of information, and such a community of feeling, as would contribute to shed much useful light on this impor-

tant subject, and invigorate the efforts of philanthropic men, in every part of the world.

Throughout the whole of those convulsions which have distressed and agitated Europe, during so long a period, there have been in every country a select few, and in some places, more than a few, who, guided by the precepts of Christianity, and the interests of science, have ever deplored that depravity which could thus make man the enemy of man. By the union of such men as these, annually or triennially, those beneficent feelings would be cultivated, and in all probability so diffused, as greatly to increase the mutual sympathies of nations, enlarge the circle of benevolence, and promote the peace of the world. Paris would doubtless be the most central position for such a congress of humanity. The scheme may be too great for so extensive an execution as that alluded to; but even if partially effected—if England, Holland, France, and Switzerland, would agree to promote it; if men of established reputation in each of those countries, would assemble, deliberate, and publish the result of their investigations, can it be doubted, that the world would be enlightened on many subjects of great importance to the welfare of every nation?

Count Lasteyrie informed me, that he was about to commence a new series of lithographic plates on natural history, taken from life. The descriptions are to be furnished by F. Cuvier, and Geoffroy St. Hilaire.

Baron Cuvier, the distinguished naturalist, is, in one sense, or indeed more than one, the Sir Joseph Banks of Paris. His house in the garden of plants, is open once a week to the reception of his literary and scientific friends. Having had the pleasure of an in-

introduction to him in London, I had no hesitation in accepting the invitation of a friend to go with him to the levee of this evening, in the garden of plants. We were politely met in the antichamber, by the learned professor. The circle of visitors was much less than that which is usually found in Soho Square. It appeared to be more select; and it comprehends ladies as well as gentlemen. Biot and his wife were present. He has recently been on a mission to England and Scotland, for the purpose of uniting with some of the English geometricians in measuring the meridian in the northern parts of Great Britain. He told me, that he went to England without knowing any thing of the language, but resolved, on landing in the country, that he would speak no French. By adhering to this rule, and putting faithfully into practice all the English he could gain, he was able in a few months to converse with ease. Of this last he convinced me, by maintaining, with very considerable facility, a conversation in English. He is of opinion, that the science of France is more profound than that of England, but it is not so generally diffused. Of the learning and intelligence of the Scotch, he spoke in flattering terms. Biot is a distinguished member of the institute, and his reputation in England and America stands high, as a mathematician and philosopher, from his two valuable works, "*Astronomie Physique*," and "*Traité Generale de Physique*." Conjointly with Gay Lussac, he delivers a course of lectures on natural and experimental philosophy in the College of France. A Parisian lawyer, who had travelled in England, for the purpose of inquiring into the practice of English courts, particularly in relation to juries, was also pre-

sent. The jurisprudence of France is by no means so well settled as that of England and America. It is much more subject to the arbitrary interference of the crown. The institution of juries, which in those countries is so universally acknowledged to be the palladium of civil liberty, is but partially admitted in France. In civil cases it is unknown! At the present time there appears to be a disposition to extend its authority; and the subject is much agitated in private conversation. Bonaparte was averse to juries, and considerably lessened the extent of their adoption. The grand jury, which had been established during the republic, he entirely abolished, and transferred its functions to a branch of the imperial court of appeal. There is much prejudice against juries in Paris, arising, as I conceive, from the peculiar temperament of the French. On every subject which affects their passions, they are prone to an impetuosity of feeling and decision, which must render it difficult to bring twelve or twenty-four men to unite in a calm and deliberate manner upon any complicated judicial case. Hence it is probable, that a tribunal of impartial judges, long habituated to legal and judicial considerations, would be as likely to decide with equity, in all ordinary cases, and with a great deal more dignity and promptitude than a mixed jury. But, unfortunately, the judiciary itself is not of that independent character, which is so essential to the important ends of justice, and to the rights and liberties of the subject.

Professor Cuvier is one of the perpetual secretaries of the institute. There are few men who have ever attained to a higher reputation in natural history.

than he. In the department of zoology, and comparative anatomy, he has probably never been equalled. His physiognomy is marked by lines of peculiar strength, and vigour of expression, but showing more of the German, than the Frenchman. I saw no person in the institute whose features appeared to me more indicative of profound talent than his. He has a second wife, a lady, it is said, of excellent dispositions and acquirements. They had each of them a daughter, by a former marriage. The females of the family formed a part of the evening circle, and appeared to take an interest in the subjects introduced for conversation, though many of them were necessarily of a scientific nature. The admission of ladies, on occasions of this kind, in which the company and the topics, must inevitably be of a grave and learned character, is one of the striking peculiarities of French manners. Women take an active part in all the concerns of society, from the most servile labours of the field, to the consultations of the cabinet, the schemes of ministers, and the decisions of the king himself. In such parties as those which constitute the weekly levees of Cuvier, if the presence of females deducts something from the freedom of masculine discussion, and throws some constraint upon the privileges of science, it introduces more refinement and vivacity, and, by serving as an intellectual stimulus, it promotes, in a great measure, the legitimate object of the meeting.

We were invited, about ten o'clock, into the "salle a manger," and sat down to a supper, consisting of tea, wine, apple-pie, and cake. Conversation was kept up at the table, as it had been in the saloon.

The company gradually retired, without taking a formal leave. The apartments, or houses which the professors occupy, in the garden of plants, are sufficient for the genteel accommodation of a family, but without any extravagance. The museum of comparative anatomy, occupies a suite of rooms in the same building in which Cuvier resides. It is scarcely possible to speak in terms of undeserved eulogium, of this collection. It reflects the highest honour on the skill, the science, the research, the industry, and taste, of this profound interpreter of organic nature. It is an object well worthy of the munificence of the government.

22d. There are between thirty and forty Catholic churches in Paris, but none that bears a comparison, in the splendour of its embellishment, with the chartrreuse, near Pavia, or the cathedral of Milan. In the course of our rambles, this morning, we went into St. Sulpice, which holds, I believe, the second rank in size and importance. It is situated in the faubourg St. Germain, and occupies the centre of a large open area, beautifully paved with flat stones, of different colours. It is a majestic building. The portico was designed by Servandoni, and makes an imposing appearance. On each side is a tower, 210 feet high. The Doric and Ionic orders, are both employed. The Doric columns are forty feet high, and five in diameter; the Ionic, thirty-eight in height, and four feet eight inches in diameter, with an entablature of nine feet. The Corinthian order is used in the interior. The principal altar, between the nave and the choir, is very grand. The choir is spacious, and is decorated with colossal statues, of the Saviour, and of Peter.

Paul, and John the Evangelist. It was the time of high mass, when we entered, and a much more numerous company than usual was assembled. Besides eight or ten priests, dressed in splendid robes, there were twenty-five or thirty others that officiated, clothed in white mantles, which extended over their heads, and these again covered with black hoods. There was a vast deal of parade and ceremony. The singing was assisted by a long bugle. One of the performers went round the passages and aisles, among the people, scattering water from a brush, which he dipped occasionally in a pot, carried before him by another. Two more stood at the entrance, holding each a wet brush, which the good Catholics touched as they entered, and then crossed themselves. Just before the altar, were placed, in a superb box, with an elegant glass covering, a few human bones, which, I was informed, were the relics of St. Cecilia. They were doubtless brought out on this occasion, in order to receive the bows and supplications of all who might believe in the efficiency of this saint's protection. This is in fact St. Cecilia's day. The twenty-second of November, was celebrated, during a considerable time, in England, by a musical festival, in honour of this saint. But as often as I had read Dryden's ode, I never knew before, that St. Cecilia held a place in the calendar, and still extended her protection to the Christian world! Much less did I ever expect to see her bones. As to their actual virtues, I conclude there were few persons in the church, who had more confidence in them than myself. We noticed but one individual, who appeared to pay any attention to them; this was a poor ragged cripple, who con-

stantly paraded round the relics, kneeling to them, crossing himself, and muttering something that I could not understand. St. Cecilia, according to the legends of the church, was a Roman lady, who suffered martyrdom on behalf of Christianity, in the beginning of the third century. She was so celebrated for her piety, and her musical powers, that, as the story runs, she was visited by an angel, in the form of a beautiful youth. This is referred to by Dryden, in the conclusion of his animated ode :

“ Let old Timotheus yield the prize,
Or both divide the crown ;
He rais'd a mortal to the skies,
She drew an angel down.”

As to the genuineness of the relics in St. Sulpice. it is perhaps just as worthy of credit, as the assertion in the last line of the ode. The audience assembled on this occasion, was much more genteel in its appearance, than in any other instance we have met with. The notes of the great organ, were such as would doubtless have gratified the ears of St. Cecilia, were she living to hear them. If the persons assembled at this high mass, do in reality believe that the acceptable worship of the Almighty consists in ceremonial splendour, or that the Divine favour is to be propitiated by pomp and parade, they must have retired from this exhibition with minds greatly edified. The impression upon my mind, I may confess, was very much the reverse of religious solemnity.

From St. Sulpice, we went to the hospital *La Charité*, in the Rue de Saints Peres. It was founded by Mary de Medicis, in the beginning of the 17th century. It contains now about 350 patients. The build-

ing itself is old, but the wards are kept in very neat order. The beds are enclosed by white curtains, some of which are suspended from the ceiling, in a style of neatness peculiar to the French. The baths in this hospital are particularly large and convenient. Our guide, in his earnestness to show us their construction, took us to one, which we found, on entering, was occupied by women. We were about to retreat; "Mais entrez, Messieurs," said he, "c'est egal."

In this establishment, as in most others, there is a chapel, so situated that the patients, without rising from their beds, are able, "*se réunir aux prieres des assistans et du prêtre.*" The number of persons employed in the service of this hospital is 63, viz. a chief superintendent; an upper and under clerk; a physician in chief; a second physician and two assistants; a chief surgeon, a second, an adjunct, and a chief pupil; an apothecary in chief, nine pupils in medicine, surgery and pharmacy; an almoner, five sisters, and thirty-six servants.

During the ten years immediately preceding 1814, the whole number of patients admitted, was 27,457, of whom 3,881 died. The number of deaths was, of course, rather more than one seventh of the admissions.

24th. By invitation, I attended this morning the opening of a new school for the benefit of a regiment of soldiers. The building appropriated to this object, was very handsomely equipped with new desks and benches, so constructed that the table or desk, and the bench, constituted one entire moveable frame, dovetailed and pinned together, without nails. They appeared to be lighter and stronger than those usually employed, and worthy of imitation in other

schools. The slates were loose and without frames, but of twice or thrice the ordinary thickness. The business of the school was opened by Count Alexander de la Borde, in a discourse, to a considerable audience of gentlemen; the pupils or soldiers of the regiment, standing in the passages and vacant parts of the room. In this discourse, the respectable orator explained very clearly the nature and advantages of the new mode of instruction, and showed its applicability and importance to various classes of the French people, and among others to the soldiers. The men that were to compose the school, were then arranged in classes at the tables, and went through a portion of the exercises, much to the satisfaction of the spectators. Many of the poor fellows, (indeed I should judge the greater number,) were not able to read. Count de la Borde informed me, that the system of mutual instruction is to be introduced into all the regiments of France.

25th. We visited this morning the Hospital des Enfants trouvés, situated on the south side of the city. It is truly a remarkable establishment. The building it occupies was formerly an ancient abbey or convent. We found no difficulty in gaining admission, and could not but be gratified with the evidence of perfect neatness and order which prevailed in every department of this extensive institution. We were shewn through the several parts of the house, by one or two of the benevolent sisters, who devote their lives to its service. The children brought to the house, are not placed in a basket, as at Milan, but given to the porter, who takes them immediately to the reception room, where an account is taken of the day and hour

of their entrance, the sex, the manner in which they are clothed, &c. The name of the child is frequently attached to its arm or neck, and accompanied sometimes with other information respecting its birth. If the child is brought nameless, a name is given to it, which is carefully registered, with all other circumstances connected with its condition, progress, and destination. When taken into the nursery it is washed, and afterwards weighed. "On a peu d'espe-
rance de le conserver, s'il pese moins de six livres."

A strip of parchment, on which is inscribed the name, &c. of the child, is fastened to its head, and as an additional means of identity, a paper with the name written in indelible ink, is secured between two ribbands, and sewed round its wrist. There are 88 cradles in the nurseries, neatly constructed of iron, and moving on castors. All the infants whose health will admit of transportation, are taken into the country to be nursed. To effect this important object, twenty-five or thirty respectable married men are selected from different parts of the country, within a certain distance from Paris, who have the charge of seeking out suitable nurses, of bringing them to the hospital, and conveying them, with the infants consigned to their care, to their respective houses. These men are called *meneurs*. It is their duty to keep a constant superintendence over the nurses, to visit them at least once a month, and to make a faithful report of the actual condition of each child, to the magistrate of their commune. The *meneurs* are obliged to give security for the punctual discharge of their duties. They are prohibited from bringing more than fifteen nurses at once, in their vehicles to Paris, and

they are to come only at stated times. The nurses receive their wages from the *meneurs*, who are allowed a certain per centage, on all sums which pass through their hands. The nurses receive seven francs per month during the first year, six francs for the second year, and five francs per month for each year afterwards, till the seventh year, and four francs (or forty-eight per annum,) from the seventh year till the twelfth, when the child is put out as an apprentice. In addition to these wages, a gratuity is given to the nurses, at suitable intervals, if there is an evidence of their fidelity and care. The children are clothed at the expense of the hospital. The number of country nurses, which annually apply at the hospital, and receive infants, is about 4000. But these are inadequate to the demand, so that it is necessary to employ about thirty resident nurses, each of whom has, generally, the charge of two children. Artificial training, or feeding by hand, is forbidden as much as possible. The number of children appertaining to the establishment, and distributed over the country, at the time of our visit, was about 16,000. The number annually admitted, is from 5 to 6000! The list has, in a few instances, according to the printed record, amounted to nearly 7000 per annum. A large proportion is received from the Hospital de la Maternité, (ou de l'accouchement,) which, a few years ago, formed a part of the general establishment. It is now, however, a separate concern; but is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of the *Enfans trouvés*. About two-thirds of the admissions are from the city and suburbs of Paris. The other third from towns, villages, and country places, at various distances

from the metropolis. Children have been sent here from Burgundy, and even from Flanders, and sometimes in a way disgraceful to humanity. The whole number received during ten years, viz. from 1804 to 1813, was 45,921, "*dont 4130 sont presumes legitimes, et 41,791 sont presumes naturels.*" The proportion of deaths in the house, has been greatly diminished by improved methods of treatment. In 1789 the number received was 5719, of which 1645 died in the house. Whereas in 1813 there were only 675 deaths out of 4999, the number of infants received that year. The interior administration is confided, principally, to the sisters of charity, of whom there are twenty-two devoted to the institution. They perform their duties with the utmost vigilance and fidelity, consecrating their lives to a service, to which they have attached themselves, as I have no doubt, from the powerful stimulus of religious faith and duty. One of the sisters, named Guillot, died in the year 1807, after having spent fifty-two years in the service of this charity. During that time she had received, and assisted in taking care of, the astonishing number of 360,000 children! The sisters are aided in their duties, by thirty or forty female domestics.

What a picture does this institution at once exhibit, of the depravity and the humanity of this people!

The hospital for orphans, in the Faubourg St. Antoine, is adapted to the reception of children of both sexes, but of an age at which they are able to perform some light manual labour. It is provided with workshops, for tailors, shoemakers, weavers, lace-makers, cabinet work, turners, locksmiths, bonnet-

makers, &c. The disposition of the child is consulted with respect to the business it will follow, and it receives instruction from teachers, until it is able, or nearly so, to pay for its own support and maintenance, at which time care is taken to provide for it a suitable situation.

The Hospice de la Maternité contains 150 cradles, with proportionate accommodations for the patients. A course of lectures is given by the "*sage-femme*," assisted by Dr. Dubois, to a large class of female pupils, collected from all parts of the kingdom.

I had the pleasure of attending this evening, a meeting of the society for promoting the extension of elementary schools. Count Lasteyrie presided. On his right was the Baron de Girando, who takes a warm and active part in the business of the society. Francoeur, a learned professor in the College of France, was the acting secretary. A great number of letters were read from different parts of the country, requesting information relative to the nature and to the *modus operandi* of the new system, and, in some instances, asking for assistance in teachers and books. The agency of this society is powerful, in exciting a spirit of improvement in relation to education. More than a thousand schools are already established in the kingdom, and the number is rapidly increasing. The society at Paris comprehends a great number of the most distinguished men of the metropolis, for learning, science, talents, and rank. And, notwithstanding the strenuous opposition of the priests, and other *religieuses*, the subject is so important, that it has forced itself upon the notice of ministers, and has obtained from them a sort of reluctant approbation and patron-

age. The spirit of sober, rational liberty is, however, by no means sufficiently felt in France. The ruling party does not appear to be sufficiently aware, that the best, and indeed the only effectual means of consolidating the authority of government, is to proceed upon Christian principles;—to distribute, from the heart of the body politic, to the extremity of every limb, the warm and thrilling circulation of its best sympathies;—to diffuse the blessings of knowledge to every class, and thus to convince the people that their permanent enjoyment and their rational happiness, are the dearest objects of their rulers. It was the benevolent desire of Henry IV., a monarch, whose name will ever be venerated in France, that “every cottager in his kingdom might be able to boil his chicken on a Sunday.” But it was a more enlightened, if not a more patriotic wish, of George III., that each of his subjects might be able to read the Bible. The blind and ferocious zeal of the revolution could scarcely have reared its gorgon head, among any other than an infidel people. The solemn convictions of Christian faith, can alone furnish those restraints upon human passions, which preserve their energies within the salutary channels of public and private happiness.

I observed, with regret, that the society for mutual instruction did not conduct their business with that attention to order, which I cannot but consider as highly important to every deliberative assembly. They spoke without rising from their seats, and several persons would occasionally speak at the same time. The hall of the society contains several pictures, among

which is an excellent portrait of Pestalozzi. They have also a bust of the late Abbé Gaultier.*

26th. After attending a lecture of Professor Brogniart, I accompanied Berzelius to the house of Count Bournon, who has long been esteemed as one of the best mineralogists in France. He was forced by the revolution to England, where he received that attention which his scientific merits deserved. He published, while in England, his famous work on Carbonate of Lime, in 2 vols. 4to. We met, in his cabinet, Baron Vietinghoff, a privy counsellor of the Emperor Alexander, and the Chevalier de Parga, of Madrid, both of them versed in mineralogy. Three or four hours were not sufficient to enable us to look through the whole of Count Bournon's collection. His specimens are kept in drawers, divided by thin wooden partitions, which are easily moveable. His crystals are fastened by wax in the usual way, upon small turned pillars of wood, which are stuck in little square boards that fall into the cavity of the box. Larger specimens rest on cotton, in the compartments. His specimens are small, but in great variety. The collection contains more than 125 diamonds, but none of them are large.

28th. From an official account, published this morning in some of the papers, it appears that there were during the past year 23,759 births in the city of Paris, of which 9,047 *etoient des enfans naturels*. What an awful comment is this, upon the morals of the city, and upon the tendency of the *Hospital des Enfants Trouves*! The number of deaths was 22,124, of which 740 were of small pox.

* This enlightened friend of education died during my absence from Paris.

I have been often surprised at the great freedom which the press appears to enjoy at the present time in Paris. The editors who are opposed to the ministry, indulge, with a liberty, unrestrained, as I should suppose, by any fear of consequences, in the most spirited comments upon the measures of the cabinet. It is difficult, however, for a stranger to judge correctly of the political health of a country, by a mere casual attention to its pulsations. J*****, whom I have already noticed as one of the most active and busy philanthropists of Paris, called this evening at my chamber. He regards the state of the country as very critical. The press, he says, is enslaved by *law*, and enjoys its freedom only by *effect*. A petty scribbler is thrown into a dungeon for a trifle, while an opponent of consequence is passed over with impunity. The government and people are at variance. Education is suspected. One of the ministers told J*****, yesterday, that he feared the effect of the extension of education, in the reproduction of revolutionary feelings.

29th. Dr. R**. an English gentleman, whom I incidentally met, a few days ago, in the Abbé Sicard's room, called at our lodgings this evening. He has been spending some time in Paris, for the purpose of becoming well acquainted with the French mode of instructing the deaf and dumb. He represents the Abbé Sicard as being superannuated. He is in his seventy-ninth year, an age in which it cannot be supposed, that any person should possess sufficient energy to govern a large school of boys. The house is, accordingly, in considerable disorder. The boys are not well clothed and fed ; not from want of funds, but from that growing indifference, which results from the

age and infirmity of their patron. The Abbé is assisted by Bebian, a young man, whose father is a wealthy planter of Guadaloupe. This person has devoted himself to the school, *con amore*, and is an exceedingly intelligent, and efficient aid to the venerable Abbé, though he is not able to remedy the disorders in the administration. There are at present about 100 scholars, in the Abbé Sicard's establishment.

LETTER XXII.

Paris, 12th month, (Dec.) 12, 1818.

MY DEAR ****,

AFTER filling up the morning of the 30th with an attendance of lectures, and a visit to the institute, I joined Berzelius and Thenard in a dinner party at Gay Lussac's. His residence is on the south side of the town, rather remote from the schools in which he so ably delivers his courses of instruction. He is professor of natural philosophy (*physique*) conjointly with Biot, in the College of France, and of chemistry in the Polytechnic school. His professorships are worth 9,500 francs. He is, besides, employed by government, as an inspector in the manufactory of gunpowder, and is one of the editors of the "*Annales de Chimie*," a monthly journal of extensive circulation. His talents for experimental investigation, and logical deduction, are of the first order, and there are few persons, to whom modern chemistry is more deeply

indebted. His age, which I should judge to be about forty, is far behind his reputation as a philosopher. His wife is a neat person, even for a Frenchwoman, and of amiable and engaging manners. They have four children, all young. The oldest is at a boarding school, in the city; a practice common, both here and in London. The child, in such cases, spends his holidays with his parents. The remark I have made, with respect to the scientific merits of Gay Lussac, apply, with nearly the same force, to the other two gentlemen last named. The authority of Berzelius in chemistry, particularly in the laws of inorganic matter, is deservedly very high. As a mineralogist, he is, probably, much superior to either: as a *physicien*, in the French sense of the term, he is doubtless much below Gay Lussac. He enjoys a high consideration in the French Institute, (or Royal Academy of Sciences,) and is one of the chief secretaries of the Swedish Academy. Thenard has less acumen, and his mind is less vigorous than either; but he is patient, laborious, and judicious. He has done much for experimental chemistry, and is the author of a treatise, which bids fair to become a standard in the chemical schools of the continent. He fills his station, as professor of chemistry, in the college of France, with much ability. His papers before the institute, are listened to with lively interest and attention. The union of three such men, at a private dinner table, was a treat, which needed not the stimulus of French cookery, refined and excellent as it is, to render it highly agreeable. But how often does it happen, on such occasions, when "minds of the first magnitude," are assembled round the social board.

and one hopes to enjoy the very essence of intellect, that conversation, like the wind, "blowing where it listeth," flits along from various quarters of the compass, without bearing with it any peculiar odour, or leaving any trace of extraordinary impression. As the persons named, were, with myself the only guests, we conversed occasionally upon the merits of English chemists. I was sorry to find, that on this topic, national prejudices were more obvious, and candour less apparent, than I could well have imagined from men who have nothing to fear from the exaltation of others. The progress of science and the arts is unquestionably very much indebted to that love of reputation which is so universal a feeling in the human breast. Confined within its proper limits, this is, certainly, a useful, and may become a dignified principle. But it is, I conceive, just as liable as any other virtue, to associate itself with the selfish and corrupt passions of our nature; and too few there are, even among persons of the finest endowments, who are sufficiently aware of the injury which their characters are liable to sustain, by suffering the love of fame to mingle with the feelings of jealousy, and forgetting that true genius derives none of its laurels from branches withered by envy or malice. What an example was Newton of that sublimity of character which flows from the unsophisticated union of moral with intellectual greatness!

The Craniology of Dr. Gall was adverted to, but his theory received no confirmation, from the verdict of this jury of learned chemists.

12th month 1st. We devoted this morning to the *Salpêtrière*. This is, I apprehend, the most extensive

charitable institution in Europe. On the spot which it occupies, there was formerly a manufactory of saltpetre, whence the uncouth name of the establishment. The various buildings, courts, and yards of this institution include about thirty acres of ground, and there are within the walls, ordinarily, about 5,000 subjects. It forms of itself, a little town or villa of beneficence. It is situated just within the walls of the city, on the eastern side, and adjacent to the south shore of the Seine. We had an introduction to Dr. Esquirol, one of the chief physicians, but as he was in the midst of his morning duties, we were obligingly waited upon by Dr. Rostan, who conducted us first to the *pharmacie*. This, though a large building, contains nothing remarkable, except, that we were struck with the prodigious number of pewter mugs, which covered a long table, and which are used in distributing the *Tisane*, or vegetable decoctions, throughout the infirmaries. The French mode of treatment, differs very essentially from the English and American. It relies much more upon the use of simples, among which vegetable infusions and decoctions are the most prominent. Dr. Esquirol having joined us, he soon proved himself to be, in our estimation, a young man of very promising talents. His private room is furnished with a great variety of skulls of insane persons, arranged in classes according to the nature of their mental alienation. He possesses also numerous casts and drawings of ideots and maniacs, taken from life, and forming the most frightful set of human likenesses, that could possibly be exhibited. He is a faithful pupil and an able coadjutor of Dr. Pinel, (the elder physician of the establishment.)

whom the medical world seems disposed to acknowledge, as possessing the most profound acquirements in diseases of the mind.

The *Salpêtrière*, is both an *hospice* and an *hôpital*. The former term implies a place of refuge for the poor, the latter for the sick and lame. Notwithstanding the vast extent of this charity, its inmates are almost exclusively females. The insane and the indigent of the other sex are provided for in other places.

The subjects of this charity are divided into five principal sections. First, the women who have long acted as servants to the establishment and have become too old or infirm for further service. These are called the *reposantes*. They have a particular location, and are furnished with accommodations superior to the other poor. The second includes the blind the paralytic, and the octogenaires. Third, the septuagenaires, and those afflicted with chronic diseases. The fourth is an infirmary for those of the former classes, who require medical treatment. It contains 400 beds. The fifth, includes the insane and the epileptic.

One kitchen provides for the whole of this great family of paupers. There was formerly a number of distinct kitchens; but a very great economy of fuel, of labour, and utensils, has been found to result from bringing the whole into one. This great kitchen contains four kettles or boilers, each of which, as the cook informed us, will contain two oxen and convert them into soup at one operation. They are, in reality, calculated to contain each 1200 pounds of meat. A large iron drainer, on which the meat rests, fits the inside of the boiler, and is raised and lowered by a

crane and pullies. The soup is taken out by large dippers. A man, we were told, once fell into one of the kettles and lost his life. Hot and cold water is distributed throughout the kitchen by tubes, for that purpose. The laundry is on a scale equally gigantic. The buildings are admirably supplied with water from three reservoirs, kept full by forcing pumps, worked each by two horses. In one apartment were four washing tubs, each large enough to hold from 5 to 6,000 shirts. These tubs are supplied with hot lye from a central boiler. The apartments for drying, ironing, and folding the clothes are proportionably large and convenient. The *lingerie*, or deposit of clean linen, presents an extraordinary example of perfect neatness of arrangement, adapted to vastness of extent and quantity. The number of some of the articles, at the time of our visit, was the following: 200 surgeon's aprons, 29,000 women's neck handkerchiefs, 22,000 night caps, 3,000 loose sleeves, 38,000 sheets, 36,600 chemises, 400 shirts, 19,500 pillow cases, 5,000 kitchen aprons, &c. &c. The number of each article is carefully registered. Indeed the greatest order appears to prevail in the economy of this establishment.

The number of epileptic patients is between 4 and 500. The building appropriated to them is distinct from the other. The dormitory is in the second story. We found the patients mostly at work in the lower rooms, at sewing and spinning. Two or three only were in the lodging room, and in the paroxysm of this sudden and fearful malady.

The condition of the insane, in this great hospital, is far less to be commended than that of any other class. Indeed it deserves, in many respects to be

positively reprobated. The buildings which accommodate them, are mostly of one story, divided into small cells. The floors are of stone, cold and damp, and *no fire permitted even in winter*, except for the sick. Such a destitution of what we should consider as two essential ingredients of comfort, a dry and a warm habitation, in cold and damp weather, it was truly painful to observe.

Dr. Esquirol is aware of the defects of the present mode of managing this class of suffering humanity, in France. He has travelled, and observed much on this subject, and intends to publish the result of his reflections. As far as his means will permit, the state of those under his care has been ameliorated. They are carefully classified. The furious maniacs are kept distinct from the others, and the convalescent are also in a separate part of the premises. A mild and humane treatment, appears to be pursued, as far as the accommodations will permit. None of them were in irons, and but a few in strait waistcoats. Those not mischievous, have two gardens to walk in. The convalescent are encouraged to employ themselves in sewing and knitting, but no work is forced either upon them, or upon any of the poor. Whatever they do is voluntary, and they are paid for it. In one room, appropriated chiefly to the melancholic, there were ninety-eight beds. Attached to the insane department, there are ninety-eight domestics, most of whom are of the number of convalescent insane. The incurables are a full third of the whole.

The insane of the other sex are mostly provided for in the hospital called Bicêtre, situated without the walls of the city. There is a large church within

the Salpêtrière, and four priests are enumerated among the officers of the establishment. A botanic garden forms part of the general concern, for the purpose of supplying the "*pharmacie*" with medical herbs. Seventeen persons, including physicians and surgeons, are attached to the health department; fifteen to the kitchen, and more than a hundred to the general management of the clothing. Every person engaged in the service of the institution, except the physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, is lodged and fed within the walls. There are 250 in the class of *Reposantes*.

Such are the particulars of this vast concern,—such the manifestations of public charity, in one of the numerous institutions of this city. With these facts before me, I could scarcely doubt the assurance that was made us, that the number of applications for admission into the comfortable quarters of the Salpêtrière, on the part of the indigent, are almost innumerable!

2d. A public exercise of the deaf and dumb pupils, is held by the Abbé Sicard, at his institution, at least twice every month. The applications of strangers to witness the performance of the scholars, are so numerous that he cannot well avoid this course. It tends also, in all probability, to sharpen the wits of the boys, and it appears to accord very well with the inclinations of the worthy old Abbé. The addresses of those who apply for admission are taken, and as soon as they amount to a sufficient number, tickets are sent to their places of residence. It is necessary, occasionally, to hold these exercises three or four times in a month, in order to answer the public demand. Dr. R. kindly furnished us with tickets, and

we attended this morning one of the exhibitions. The hall in which it is held, was ornamented with elegant portraits of the Abbé, his assistants, and some of his most distinguished pupils. On the large black board were drawn the figures of a night-cap, cane, chair, windmill, umbrella, &c. One of the youngest boys, explained by signs, the meaning of these figures. This was afterwards done by *Massieu*, the deaf and dumb assistant, to show how perfectly *signs* may be made to communicate an idea of objects. This man fills the place which was vacated by Le Clerc, who is now so usefully engaged at Hartford in Connecticut. Massieu is exceedingly intelligent and dexterous. In explaining the windmill, he commenced with the sowing of seed in the ground, and went through every part of the process, to the making, baking, and eating of the bread. The pupils manifest great quickness of perception. The accuracy of the language of signs, was shown by an exercise, which appeared to me, more surprising than any thing I had yet seen performed by the deaf and dumb. The Abbé Sicard took a pamphlet from his pocket, containing a poem just from the press. He gave it to Massieu, who placing one of the boys before the board, dictated to him by signs, the first eight or ten lines of the poem. The boy wrote them with much rapidity and perfect accuracy, and without seeing a word that was in the book. As there was no doubt that the poem was altogether new, both to Massieu and the pupil, the readiness with which the latter caught, not only the meaning, but the very words of the poem, and the rapidity with which he expressed them, on the board, was at once a demon-

stration of the precision with which ideas may be acquired, both upon natural and moral subjects, through the medium of the eye alone.

The same boy was asked what the word person meant. He answered, "that it implied a body and soul united." "What, then, is the soul separate from the body?" Answer. "It is the part which at death escapes from its prison and becomes an angel."

The hall of audience was crowded with company. The Abbé appeared to be in an element of delight. He explained very minutely, the principles upon which his plan of instruction is conducted, and received a full share of the plaudits of his auditory, consisting of various ranks of people. In the passage was exposed a variety of beautiful articles, manufactured by the boys, chiefly of turnings in wood and ivory. These are purchased at pleasure by the visitors.*

3d. I spent half an hour this morning with Count Chaptal. The deep interest which he takes in the progress of manufacturing industry in France, and the scientific skill and personal effort he has exerted to promote the chemical arts, are well known. Although his name is associated with that of Lavoisier, and many others, as the *founders* of modern chemistry, he has not the appearance of an old man. His figure is athletic, and his physiognomy indicates judgment and application. He spoke heartily of America, and was lavish in his praises of Washington. He once received a letter from him, and was much gratified with the sentiments it contained. He assured me that his manufactory of sugar from beets is still profitable. He carries it on, I believe, upon a large

* The Abbé Sicard died in 1822.

scale. The residuum of the root, after the juices are pressed out, is very advantageously used in fattening cattle. He shewed me a loaf of the sugar, which, in colour and taste was equal to the best cane sugar, equally refined.

With several acquaintance I descended to-day to the Catacombs. The entrance to these subterranean wonders, is just without the barrier D'Enfer, on the south side of the city. They consist of cavernous passages in the limestone strata, on which the city of Paris is founded. They are at various depths from the surface, and contain numerous ramifications, some of which, it is said, pass under the river and extend beneath the northern part of the city, while other branches go towards the south and west. These avenues are in some places enlarged into spacious openings or halls, and in others, they are almost too small for the human body to pass. Thus far, there is nothing extraordinary in these caverns. They are by no means uncommon in limestone districts. It is the use that has been made of them, which renders the catacombs of Paris, like those of Rome and Thebes, the wonder of their numerous visitors. In some of the larger cavities, are altars composed of the solid rock. They have existed there from time immemorial; whence the conclusion is drawn, that they were used as places of worship, either by the ancient Gauls, or the early Christians. Some of the passages, which extend the furthest under the city, in consequence of their having once become the rendezvous of banditti have been closed up. These cavities are now the depositories of HUMAN BONES ! They were taken from the cemeteries of

Paris, where, by the accumulation of centuries, and the most disgusting and barbarous method of inhumation, they had begun to infect the air with pestilential effluvia. It became therefore absolutely necessary to remove the loathsome mass.

The bones of more than ten centuries were accordingly separated from the more earthy materials, carefully cleaned, and arranged in regular and extensive walls and columns, in the catacombs. Having obtained a guide, and being well provided with wax tapers, we descended by a winding staircase of 80 steps, to the depth of 57 feet; and were conducted from gallery to gallery, and cavern to cavern, among those extended columns of human remains. Could any thing, on earth, be more like passing through the "valley of the shadow of death?"

The bones are piled with much art, from the floor to the roof of the cavern. Those of the arms, legs, and thighs, are compacted neatly together in front, forming strata, which are regularly alternated with rows of skulls. Behind this front wall are thrown the small bones. Many of the columns of stone which support the vaults, are likewise surrounded with these remnants of mortality, so artificially disposed, as to give them the appearance of substantial columns of skulls. Various fanciful figures, are formed on the sides of some of the halls, of the same materials. A number of inscriptions is seen on the walls and columns, in Latin and French, containing brief and appropriate admonitions, relative to the shortness and uncertainty of human life. I observed that one of them was taken from Hervey's Meditations. During the atheistical period of the revolu-

tion, the inscriptions in these gloomy caverns, were, it is said, of an impious character, asserting, in the boldest manner, that mind was only the organization of matter, and death an eternal sleep! When the shield of faith is once thrown aside, and the still small voice is stifled in the tumult of selfish passions, to what direful excesses will the minds of men be carried! These shameful inscriptions were removed when the nation returned to better feelings, and the present, substituted. The number of skulls in this amazing charnel house, amounts, it is said, at the least, to 2,400,000. Some accounts state them at three millions, and others even more.

The most imminent danger would attend a separation of the visiter from his guide, in these gloomy labyrinths. A black line is drawn upon the wall of the principal avenue, but this clue might be insufficient to lead the stranger to the regions of day-light, before his strength and courage would fail him,—his taper become extinguished,—and death, in its most appalling form, overwhelm him.

Upon our ascent from the catacombs, we went to the royal manufactory of the Gobelin tapestry. The name is derived from a person of the name of Gobelin, a dyer from Rheims, who established himself in Paris in the reign of Francis I. This manufactory has long been dependent on the immediate support of the government. It consists in copying, by means of the loom, the finest and most celebrated pictures, either large or small. Two kinds of looms are employed, vertical and horizontal; or as they are styled by the workmen, *haute-lisse* and *basse-lisse*. The chain of the tapestry is of white wool. The filling is silk and

worsted of every shade of colour, and so variously and dexterously inserted, as to imitate, with such precision, the appearance of any of the most finished paintings, that the eye at a short distance can scarcely mark the distinction. The looms are complicated, but not much more so than the nicest carpet looms. The picture is attached to the wall behind the loom, the workman standing between them, and directing his attention alternately to each. Two men are employed at each loom. A large picture cannot be completely finished in less than three years. Above 80 persons are employed in the establishment, which comprehends an extensive and completely arranged dye-house. In the exhibition room, there are, among numerous pieces, two of Raphael's cartoons. One of the pieces in the collection is 200 years old. The early specimens are of very inferior execution. During the republic, the pay of the workmen of this factory was withdrawn, and they were reduced to beggary. They still persevered in their labours, and upon a change of government they were again patronised and remunerated. This tapestry is so costly, that none but the noble and the wealthy can afford to purchase it.

4th. We have been this morning to the royal porcelain manufactory at Sevre, a village six miles below Paris, on the banks of the Seine. Professor Brogniart, who is the chemical superintendent of this establishment, engaged to meet us, and from him we received an explanation of the nicer parts of the process. The ware room or magazine, into which we were first conducted, contains the articles which are kept for sale, as well as those which serve as specimens of the manufactory. Most of them are of sur-

prising delicacy and beauty. The skill and labour expended upon some of the articles made here, and their great liability to be broken, necessarily raise the price to an amount, which excludes them from the possession of all but men of fortune. The following are some of the articles with their prices. A neat box, containing four plates, a cream pot, sugar dish, and four cups,—11,890 francs. The lid of the box contained an elegant plate. A superb vase that would hold about fifty gallons,—27,000 francs. A small sofa about ten inches long, with two figures seated upon it, the whole covered with lace, which I found upon touching it, was also of porcelain,—300 francs. A set of botanic plates,—2360 francs. Tea cups and saucers, 300 francs each. A pair of vases, three feet high and fifteen inches broad,—20,000 francs. A picture of the king, about two feet square,—6500 francs. A round table of mahogany, in which were inserted nine plates, containing views of French palaces, the table three and a half feet diameter, and turning upon a central pedestal,—35,000 francs. A table similar to this, was presented by the king to the Prince Regent of England. Single dining plates, containing views,—350 francs each. A vase of flowers,—10,000 francs. There were also statues, flowers, and busts, in great variety. It is the exquisite finish, the carving, painting, and gilding, of these articles, which raises them to such an astonishing price. We passed through the different workshops. The ware is fashioned as in common pottery, glazed by dipping, and hardened in the kiln, each piece being enclosed in its seggar, or crucible, and placed in such a part of the kiln, as will give it the requisite heat. The

wood used in heating the kiln is aspen or Lombardy poplar, split into small pieces, and thoroughly dried. It burns with much flame and without smoke, and leaves no ashes. The painting occupies a great number of artists. Pupils are taught to draw and paint in the Institution. The colours are metallic oxides, mixed with spirits of turpentine, and laid on with the pencil. The borders are generally transferred to the plate from a painting on paper. When the pieces are painted, they are put into a large muffle, which is closed up, and heated by surrounding charcoal: the temperature of the muffle is determined by a pyrometer of Brogniart's invention. The colours are thus burned into the substance of the vessel, or combine with it by vitrification, but it is often necessary to lay them on a second and even a third time, before the painting is sufficiently brilliant. It is the repetition of this, the nicest and most tedious part of the process, which so much enhances the price of the Sevre ware.

In the magazines are preserved specimens of the various kinds of manufactory from the first establishment in 1710. They have also a collection of the ware of almost every country of Europe. The material which they employ at Sevre is a decomposed granite, in which feldspar predominates; found chiefly, if I mistake not, near Limoges. It is roasted, pounded, and ground in water. When reduced to the proper degree of fineness, it is put into basins, and dried for use. Two hundred men are employed in this establishment. Some of the painters gain, by regular wages, 5000 francs per annum.

5th. Berthollet, whose name is so eminent as one

of the most scientific reformers of Chemistry, has long resided at Arceuil, a considerable village about three miles south of Paris. He enjoys an ample fortune, and lives in a style of real elegance. I met at his table to-day Professor Brogniart, his wife, and mother; and Jomard, and his wife. These gentlemen are both eminent in science, the former in mineralogy and geology, the latter in antiquities. The treatise of Brogniart is much esteemed in England and America, as well as on the continent. Jomard was with the French army in Egypt, and has distinguished himself by his able delineations of the monuments and other antiquities of that country, the cradle of human knowledge. With so many females—so many wives and husbands, this was, of course quite a dinner *en famille*. The saloon in which I found the party assembled, was richly furnished. On the middle of the carpet were depicted, by means of the loom, the portraits of two lap dogs, which were then sporting about the room, and which appeared to be great favourites with their master.

Berthollet has long held the title of count. Though advanced in age, he generally attends the sittings of the Institute, and takes an active share in its duties. He has a good private laboratory, which still serves to amuse him. His wife is an exceedingly worthy and estimable person. They have no children living. We sat down to dinner about four, in a room remote from the parlour in which we had assembled. The table was plentifully served in the French manner, which requires a much more frequent change of plates than an English entertainment. The servants were so dexterous in the removal of dishes, that no time was

lost by the numerous changes. I have become quite reconciled to the French fork, which is always a large silver instrument with four or five prongs. The knife is small, sharp pointed, and intended for no other purpose than dividing the food. The first concern is to cut up all the meat on the plate, the knife is then laid aside: the fork is taken into the right hand, and a piece of bread in the left. This process, though at first inconvenient, now appears to me to be preferable to the use of our broad and heavy knives. Light wine is placed on the table, to be taken at pleasure; but as the meal advances, choicer kinds are handed round by one of the servants, who, with a bottle in each hand, presents himself at the elbow of every guest, pronounces the name of each wine, and pours out a glass of either kind as directed. The whole company leave the table at once. The French reprobate the English custom of the separation of the sexes, and of those long sittings over the wine which are practised by the men after the females are withdrawn; such a practice is considered as leading to excess in drinking, and to indulgence in habits which they designate by the epithets *grôssiere* and *bétisse*. We took our coffee and liqueurs in an apartment decorated in a way somewhat novel and peculiar. It united the beauty of a green house, with the utility of a drawing room. Its construction is similar to a conservatory, finely exposed to the sun, but it opens into the principal saloon, and is furnished for the purpose of company. The plants were various and beautiful, and so disposed as not to interfere with the convenience of the company, but adding greatly to the variety and freshness of the entertainment. There

was a blending of taste, simplicity of manners, and kindness, in this little party at Berthollet's, which was highly pleasing. The conversation was lively, and frequently general, though I thought, upon the whole, it lacked something of the perfect ease and sociability of an English dinner. But this impression I admit, may have been occasioned by the circumstance of my being so much less habituated to French society.

Count Berthollet, told me that he had adopted the new theory of *chlorine*, and renounced the views which have been so long entertained by chemists, and of which, it is well known, he was himself the author of regarding that substance as a compound of muriatic acid, and oxygen. "It is to Dalton," he said, "the merit belongs, of having laid the basis of the atomic theory." It is thus, I may add, that the candour of a noble mind, is ever ready to manifest itself, in justice to others.*

6th. A breakfast at Brogniart's, this morning, confirmed me in the opinion, that the attachment between parents and children, and the prevalence of domestic affection, are carefully and successfully cherished among the French. The *tutoyer*, or custom of speaking to each other in the singular number, which is always practised between parents and children, and among very intimate friends, is at once an evidence of attachment, and the means of perpetuating it. Brogniart is of middle age: he has three children.

* Count Berthollet died on the 6th of November, 1822, in the seventy-fourth year of his age, leaving a reputation, which has not often been excelled, in the path of inductive science. He was a native of Savoy; as remarkable for his amiable and social virtues, as for his profound and useful discoveries.

His wife's father, a very respectable gentleman, and well known in the literary world, was with us. After breakfast, I was taken to an adjoining room, where I found a cabinet of natural history, the private collection of professor B. We were shortly after joined by several persons of scientific acquirements, one of whom was Baron Humboldt. This celebrated traveller, and philosopher, is still in the vigour of health. His age does not, I should think, exceed forty-seven. He has a round full face, marked with small-pox, and blue eyes. He might easily be mistaken for a respectable German farmer, until conversation displays the treasures of his mind. He said a great deal, and as it appeared to me, in a manner indicating rather more of confidence in his own opinions, than would have become any person who had seen less. But is it surprising that a man who has been so able and faithful an observer, should become habitually confident? It is, perhaps, the natural tendency of the love and practice of foreign travel, to inculcate the feeling of,

“ I've seen, and sure I ought to know.”

We know, however, that dogmatism, and self-confidence, are by no means confined to travellers.

Brogniart is an able geologist, as his researches, in connection with those of Cuvier, on the stratifications of the Paris basin, abundantly prove. He was much pleased with a collection of fossils, he had just received from professor S. of Yale college. He finds the same organic remains, in the same mineral substances, from whatever country it may be derived.

I have been delighted with a visit to-day at the Conservatory of Arts. Such a collection of models

of instruments, and machinery, and so judiciously and scientifically arranged, no other city in the world can produce. It is very honourable to the government, or perhaps more properly to the good sense of the people, that this institution has prospered, during all the changes, which have so indelibly marked the recent history of this devoted country. A strong conviction of its utility, caused it to be respected, even at a time, when the infatuated populace seemed disposed to respect nothing. It occupies a large abbey, or convent, in the Rue St. Martin. The catalogue of the various articles of the collection, forms an octavo volume, of 167 pages. They are classified, and arranged in different apartments, with admirable neatness. It will readily be conceded, I think, by every intelligent person, that an institution, in the principal city of a state, or nation, containing models of every kind of instrument employed in the country, or the instrument or machine itself, if it be not too large, must furnish a most instructive school; that it must contribute greatly to elicit the genius, and form the judgment of young mechanics; and to excite an emulation in the country, very conducive to the progress of mechanical improvement. Some of the models, in this collection, though finely executed, partake, in some measure, of the *fillagree* taste of the French. In one of the rooms, for instance, is a model of a chemical laboratory, divided into various compartments, in which there are not only furnaces, bellows, crucibles, and other apparatus, all of Lilliputian size, but also little images of men, a few inches high, equipped with their aprons, and placed in the attitudes of various chemical employments. Such representations, though

they may be considered as the play of science, are still useful. A simple inspection of those little models, will furnish, to a person unacquainted with them, a more correct idea of the operations they are meant to illustrate, than it would be possible to derive from the plainest verbal description, even when accompanied by plates. This collection far exceeds that of the Adelphi, in number, extent, variety, and classification.

On leaving the Conservatory, we went to *Notre Dame*, the great metropolitan church of Paris, and the most ancient religious edifice in the city. Its site is said to be the ruins of a temple, consecrated to Jupiter, Castor, and Pollux, in the reign of Tiberius. One might easily be drawn into a train of speculation, on the various kinds of religious worship, offered on this spot, in different ages, and on the comparative measure of real devotion and piety, which, in those different periods, this temple has enclosed. If the pagan worshippers were more superstitious, they were, perhaps, equally sincere; and it doubtless was reserved for the eighteenth century of Christianity, to witness, on or near this spot, the entire rejection of a Divine agency, in the affairs of men, by a public decree of the people, and a corresponding declaration, that *reason* alone, is worthy of homage. Such, however, was the result of that paroxysm of impiety, and folly, which prevailed at the revolution. We must regard it as the transient ebullition of human arrogance, under the sole dominion of human passion. It was not the calm and settled faith of the French nation. It was not long, before this deed of the convention, with a hundred others of a kindred nature, had it been pos-

sible, would have been covered with a vail of eternal oblivion. The only infallible test of the religion of a people, is that given by our Saviour: "by their fruits shall ye know them:" and so far as the spirit of benevolence, and a sympathy for our suffering fellow creatures, are to be regarded as fruits of piety, there is, in Paris, abundant evidence of a better religion, than any thing that the heathen world was ever able to produce. To this her hospitals, and her other numerous charities and alms doings, sufficiently attest. But benevolence, charming and delightful as it is to behold it, is only one branch of Christian piety. The term "fruits," in the Scriptural sense, must have a far more comprehensive meaning, than legislative enactments, the establishment of humane institutions, or the comities of social life. It must extend to the whole of individual, as well as national character, to principles as well as practice.

Notre Dame, is a Gothic structure, but not half so imposing as the church at Rouen, and many of the English cathedrals. Its interior is very splendid, but the ornaments are less meretricious and more dignified than is usual in Catholic edifices of this kind. It is 414 feet long, 144 wide, and 102 in height. The width here stated, does not comprehend the space allotted to forty-five chapels, and the astonishing thickness of the walls. One hundred and twenty enormous columns form a double collonade, which extends the whole length of the fabric. Two vast towers rise over the side portals, which give to the edifice a heavy appearance. They are each 40 feet square, and 204 in height. The regalia of Charlemagne is preserved in this church; and what is of infinitely

greater value to the believing devotee, it contains, *as they say*, a piece of the real cross of our Saviour, and a portion of the veritable crown of thorns!

Hotel Dieu, which we next entered, is adjacent to Notre Dame. This, after the Salpêtrière, is the largest hospital in Paris; and it is probably the oldest establishment of the kind in Europe. It existed at the end of the seventh century. It contains, within the whole enclosure, sufficient space for about 2000 beds. At present not more than 800 are occupied. The largest wards are 160 yards long. The buildings include a large amphitheatre or lecture room for anatomy, another for surgery and clinical practice, and a dissecting room. The houses and yards cover about four acres. Its situation, immediately on the river, affords great facilities for the distribution of water over the house. The *Lingerie*, is large and well kept. The number of sisters (*sœurs hospitalières*), engaged in this hospital is between 30 and 40, and of other domestics and assistants 230. Sufferers of all religions are admitted into this asylum of misery, Jews as well as Christians, Protestants as well as Catholics, and each one is permitted to receive the attendance of ministers of his own sect.

The patients in this hospital formerly amounted, for years together, to the average number of 25 or 2600. Occasionally, as many as 3900 have been heaped together within its enclosures. The beds were closely wedged, and many of them were two stories high, that is, one bed placed on the frame of another, the upper being accessible only by a ladder. Several patients occupied the same bed. It is not surprising that the number of deaths was then, as one to four.

or four and a half. Since the revolution, great ameliorations have been effected in this and all the other hospitals of Paris.

7th. The blind school, under the enlightened direction of Dr. Guillié, has been one of the objects of our attention to-day. This is a superior establishment, not so much on account of the neatness in which it is kept, for in this it is deficient, as for the extraordinary success which has attended the judicious plans of Dr. Guillié, for instructing the blind. It contains fifty boys and twenty girls. We saw them assemble at the dinner table. Their food is wholesome and plentiful. During the repast, one of the teachers reads to them from a little pulpit erected in the eating room. He selects a subject that will be likely to interest and instruct them.

The chief manual exercises taught in the school are weaving, knitting, spinning, the making of baskets, slippers from cloth list, whips, chair bottoms, ropes, mats, carpets of list, &c. There were about a dozen looms in one apartment. Some of their articles are as neatly made as they could have been by the clear sighted, with an equal share of instruction. Some of them are taught the art of printing, for which purpose a small press is provided, at which the boys perform the operation in presence of their visitors. Music is a prominent part of the instruction of the school. This excels any school of this nature that I have seen, in the mental education which the pupils receive. One source of knowledge is laid open to them, which surprised me. These blind scholars are actually taught to read. For this purpose, books are printed by a kind of types which produce all the letters in a

bold relief on the surface of the sheet. The paper is much thicker than the ordinary kind, and the letters being thus permanently raised above the level, they run their fingers over the sheet, and spell the words with such dexterity, as to enable them to read as fast as children commonly do, when they have pretty well mastered the combination of syllables. One of the boys read a page to us in a folio book of *English* grammar; for their instruction in language and literature is not confined to the vernacular tongue. Geography is here, also, successfully taught to the blind. After trying various methods of forming maps, in which the principal lines and points should be in relief, the following is found to be the most effectual and agreeable. A common map is pasted on very thick pasteboard, such as is used by binders. Well tempered and very flexible iron wire, enveloped with silk paper, is then pasted on the boundary and division lines of the map, and retains its place very firmly. The towns are designated by nails with hemispherical heads driven into the pasteboard. These nails are of different sizes. Rivers may be denoted by wire of a different size from that used for the boundaries. The pupils are expert in their geographical exercises. The progress of many of them in arithmetic and mathematics, is also very striking. One of them displayed so much genius and industry in mathematical acquirements, as to excite the notice of the emperor. He was made a member of the legion of honour, and chosen professor of mathematics in the Lyceum of Angers, thus rivalling, in some measure, the celebrated Saunderson, professor of mathematics, at Cambridge. An interesting and instructive book

on the education of the blind, with an account of the institution, has been published by Dr. Guillié. There is, probably, no other establishment in the world in which this class of unfortunates, is so carefully and skilfully managed.

9th. Prior to the opening of the two legislative chambers, viz. the house of peers and the house of deputies which commence their session to-morrow, high mass is said in Nôtre Dame, in presence of the king and royal family, and of the peers and deputies. As this was the day chosen for that ceremony, our curiosity led us after breakfast to the portals of Nôtre Dame. The whole thoroughfare from the palace of the Thuilleries to the church, was lined with guards to keep out the rabble which pressed, in excessive crowds, on each side. We found no difficulty, however, in passing through the guards and reaching the church, but here the crowd was so dense, and so much eagerness was manifested to get into the church, that we concluded to keep our stations in front, and satisfy ourselves, if possible, with getting a peep at the royal faces, as they descended from their carriages and entered the portico. No person was admitted into the church without a ticket. These were offered us for sale, but at prices which we did not choose to pay. They were printed on paper of different colours; those of a particular colour, serving as passports through a particular door. As the hour approached the tickets fell in price, and we at length provided ourselves at a reasonable cost, elbowed our way to the door, and gained admission. We obtained good situations by the side of the balustrade, just within which the king was to pass. For ten sous

I hired a chair to stand upon, from which I had an excellent view of nearly the whole interior. The floor was richly carpeted, and the benches were covered with cushions of red velvet. A seat was especially provided for the king, in front of which, at the distance of a few feet, was a box lined with cloth, and furnished with a thick cushion for him to kneel upon. There were very few persons in the body of the church when we entered, except the priests, pages, and other attendants. The priests were gaudily dressed. The pages wore jackets or coatees of silk, richly lined and ornamented; and on their heads were caps, with high feathers. They made a very showy appearance.

Some of the peers first entered, dressed in laced coats, and with gilded swords. A few of the Bishops followed, more simply clad; next appeared the duchesses of Berry, Angoulême, and Orleans. They walked about the church with a familiar and easy air. Their heads glittered with diamonds, and their trains, extending eight or ten feet behind, were held up by male attendants. At ten o'clock the peers had mostly assembled, but a few only of the deputies. After these the princes or royal dukes, made their appearance, and a great number of ladies, most of them, probably, attached to the court. The king at length entered, walking under a silken canopy which was supported by four men. This machine was left at the entrance of the nave, whence he walked slowly forward to his seat. His stature is low. He is very corpulent, and his limbs are so enfeebled with gout, that he advances but a few inches at a step, with a rolling and clumsy motion. His features and expres-

sion strike me as indicative of good sense and a benevolent heart. Having reached the box he kneeled upon the cushion; the service commenced, and the priests entered upon their manœuvres. The service is very imposing. The concert of natural and artificial sounds, the diffusion of the incense, which was flung before the king by two boys from small boxes which contained it, the swellings of the organ, and the various movements of the priests and their attendants, are, I have no doubt, regarded by many as a sublime exercise of Christian devotion. But accustomed as I have ever been, to consider nothing as true devotion, which does not tend to gather the mind into an abstraction from all worldly objects, to contrite the soul, and to prostrate it as a humble supplicant at the footstool of Divine Bounty, as a penitent child at the feet of its parent—there was an emptiness in all this pageantry—a continual deficiency which left the heart unsatisfied.

After remaining for some time, sufficient to answer the purposes of a show, I grew tired and came away. Aware, as I am, that many of our prepossessions are the result of education, I wish to judge with great caution, on subjects of such solemn moment as the concerns of an eternal state. To his own master every one must stand or fall.

LETTER XXII.

Brussels, 12th month, (Dec.) 18, 1818.

MY DEAR *****,

HAVING an introduction to the Duc de la Rochefoucault Liancourt, I called with Dr. S***, on the morning of the 12th, at his Hotel near the place Vendome. It opens, as is usual in Paris, into a court. We found several persons in the anti-chamber, waiting for admission, some of whom had the riband of honour in their button-holes. The duke was engaged with company. I sent in my letter by the door-keeper, and to our surprise we soon received a message requesting our attendance, thus taking the precedence of those who had been waiting much longer than ourselves. They looked at us with as much surprise, as we felt at the occasion of it. The duke received us cordially, and entered freely into conversation respecting America. He retains a lively recollection of his visit. He performed a journey to the falls of Niagara, through the State of New-York, when the whole country west of Utica was a wilderness; and having myself made this tour only three years ago, he appeared interested and delighted in the account I was able to give him, of the actual condition of that country, and of the many flourishing towns, which now succeed each other, on the very route which at the time of his visit was only an Indian path. The description which the duke has given in his travels, of the falls of Niagara, is the best I have seen in print. He feels a lively interest

in the progress and prosperity of the United States. Though allied to royalty by birth and title, he is a great friend to liberty. He is now advancing in age, and shows some symptoms of declining strength, but is still able to attend to the duties of his station, as one of the most active and popular agents in the government. The prisons of Paris are under his control, and a more enlightened and fit person for such a station, could not, I presume, be found in the country. He politely offered to open the way for our admission to such as we might wish to visit, by obtaining passports from the prefect of Paris. We remained with him, long enough to tire the patience of those who were waiting in the anti-chamber, and took a very friendly leave.

We went into one of the schools for mutual instruction, established by the society in this city. It was in the Rue St. John de Beauvais, and contains about 300 scholars. The appearance of the room and furniture, was very inferior to that of the Lancasterian schools of England and America. The mode of instruction is much the same, though the French profess to have made some improvements in the system. Notwithstanding the meritorious labours of Berquin and Madame de Genlis, the French language is very deficient in elementary school books, and other publications calculated to enliven the literary pursuits of children, and to enlighten and strengthen their moral faculties. The society, with a zeal truly laudable, has taken up the consideration of this important subject, with an intention of soliciting the attention of French writers to these desiderata. But many years, I am persuaded, must elapse, before the system of

education in France will show, in all its parts, the same evidence of *good taste*, as that which is obvious in American and English schools.

I spent this evening at Cuvier's conversazione. The company assembled at nine. It was this evening, as before, small and select. Among others, were professor Brogniart, and his father-in-law Coquelibert; Geoffroy St. Hilaire; Frederic Cuvier, brother of the learned counsellor of state, and himself a savant; a Spanish gentleman from Brazil; a German; and several others. A number of interesting subjects of science were brought on the tapis, and excited discussion, but, I must confess, that I found in the sprightly conversation of the belle fille of our host, (Mademoiselle H.) wherewithal to amuse and delight me, beyond any of the profound remarks upon fossil bones, and newly discovered metals. My preference for this entertainment, was, doubtless, increased by the frankness with which this amiable and intelligent Mademoiselle came and seated herself by me, and led on the conversation. There is no English word for *naïveté*, and for a pretty good reason,—there is nothing in our national manners, as in the French, which corresponds precisely to the epithet. It is always engaging, and the least appearance of it, if unaffected, can hardly fail to be met with approbation and pleasure. This charming trait of French manners, combined, as it generally is, with gracefulness of action and expression, is by no means incompatible with the strictest delicacy of feeling and sentiment. It is, I am persuaded, the most obvious in those with whom purity of principle, and exemption from art, are the most predominant. It is, indeed, in cultivated society, that

one sees this trait in the greatest perfection. It is by no means uncommon in the middle ranks, and even in the children of country cottagers ; but among the lower, I mean the labouring classes, there is more of female coarseness to be met with, or, as the French justly term it, *manieres grossieres*, than in any country I have yet seen.

We were called to the supper table, at half past ten, where we were joined by Baron Humboldt. He was ripe for conversation ; but instead of enlightening us from the rich stores of his Asiatic or American recollections, he entered warmly into politics, and discussed, with Baron Cuvier, the prevailing measures of the cabinet. I was surprised to see these two great naturalists, take so deep an interest in the local politics of the city and country. I could not but suspect, that in allowing their ambition to be drawn into the current of its seductions, they are departing a little, from the track which has led them thus far onward, to the temple of well earned fame, and which can alone secure to them, in declining age, the undiminished enjoyment of the reputation of benefactors to their race. Cuvier is, however, a humane character, and interests himself in the philanthropic measures now in operation for benefitting the poor. How much is his personal comfort and the cause of modern science indebted to Humboldt, for his spirited remonstrance, by which the garden of plants was saved from destruction by the Prussian soldiers. They had a strong inclination, on entering Paris, to pitch their tents among the plants and groves of this favourite spot ; and it was only, it is said, by his energetic entreaties with Blucher, and the king of Prussia, that the gar-

den was saved from their merciless sport. Our supper consisted chiefly of sweet cakes, punch, and tea. The cakes were of a very fine composition, and tastefully displayed on the table. Cuvier had just received a case of preserved birds, and some other articles of natural history, from New-York, sent by Milbert, who acts as an agent in natural history, for the Parisian collections.

13th. The weather has been very cold for several days. I should infer from the general temperature, since my residence in Paris, that it is nearly as hot in summer, and quite as cold in winter, as in New-York.

The Marquis de la Fayette has been some days in Paris, as a member of the Chamber of Deputies, from a department 80 or 100 miles distant. I called at his lodgings this morning, and had an interesting interview and conversation with him, of nearly an hour. I had previously left my letter with the porter, so that he knew who it was that wished to see him. Without this precaution, it is very difficult, as I have learned by experience, to find public men *at home*. He received me with true French cordiality, and having seated me in his private room, began to converse upon America, with a spirit, which proved at once, that the impressions of his youth in favour of our country, have lost nothing by the influence of time and age. I was surprised to see him in such vigorous health. He appeared fifteen years younger and better than I had expected to find him. He converses in English, not only fluently, but eloquently, and with much less of foreign accent, than I could have imagined, from one who had been so long absent from a country, where the English is the native tongue.

In expressing his attachment to the United States, he took occasion very early, to deplore the existence and the effects of slavery among us. "When," said he, "I am indulging in my views of American prospects, and in favour of American liberty, it is mortifying to me to be told, that in that very country a large proportion of the people are slaves. It is a dark spot," he added, "in the face of the nation, and the time must come when the effect will be serious. Such a state of things cannot always exist." He wished earnestly to see some measures adopted, which would gradually lessen the load, and finally remove the evil. The blacks, he thought, ought to be instructed. That they are absolutely necessary in the cultivation of the southern states, or that white men could not endure the climate as labourers, he does not believe,—for the army in Virginia, while he was with it, performed the most fatiguing marches in hot weather, without much precaution, and with no great inconvenience. He thinks it meritorious in France, that she has abolished the trade in slaves. "And what an honour," he was pleased to say, "is it to your society, to have begun this good work, to have borne the cross of it so long, and finally to see it crowned with success in the governments of Europe." He spoke of the state of France, as being very different from what it was fifty years ago. The people are much more enlightened. They have a taste for liberty, and will not be satisfied without it. He acknowledged, that at present, there was a struggle between the government and the people. The present royal family, or at least a considerable portion of them, is thought to be insincere. The king's speech, at the opening of the sessions, a

a few days ago, is contradictory in different parts. But the king, in the opinion of the Marquis, is the best man, at present, in the cabinet, possessing more talent than any of the ministry, and probably more liberality. Some of the ministers are for relaxing in their measures, and yielding a little to the popular feeling; others are for more resolute proceedings. What they will propose to the house is uncertain, but it is to be feared their measures will be unhappy. In reference to the late Emperor, he might, said the Marquis, had he possessed any prudence, have been the constitutional sovereign of France, as far as the borders of the Rhine, and given a constitution to the rest of Europe. But his feelings were too selfish, his mind too devoid of love to mankind. He had no regard for the true source of power, the people. Fayette, though a republican in principle, is by no means unfriendly to a monarchy, if the charter of rights be adhered to. He considers a monarchical government, as much better adapted to the state of France, than a republic. The ministers, he says, know that these are his opinions, but they affect not to believe it.

The actual state of the public mind, with regard to knowledge and virtue, forbids, at present, the idea of self-government. The people, he remarked, in many parts of Europe, France not excepted, stand as much in need of civilization as the American Indians. But education is now spreading rapidly among them, and a great amelioration may be expected. The "Frères," he said, are opposed to the new system, because if they adopt it, it will lessen their au-

thority and consequence. They are harsh in their treatment of the scholars.

It was interesting to see a man who had rocked the cradle of infant liberty in the western world, still appearing so fresh and healthful. His principles, I am fully persuaded, are humane and philanthropic. He disdains all disguise, and speaks with the frankness of a man who cherishes nothing in his heart but good will to men. He invited me very warmly to come and see him at La Grange, his family residence, about ninety miles from Paris, where he resides with his grand children in one of the ancient chateaux of the country. On taking leave, he followed me to the stairs, and calling after me, "Do not forget," said he, "to come to La Grange." With this kind invitation, however, it will not be convenient for me to comply. I have met with no person in France whose address is more frank and engaging than that of the Marquis de la Fayette. His eye is full and glistening, his complexion florid, and the expression of his countenance is that of benevolence, operating upon the strong and lively emotions of the heart.

After leaving the marquis, I went with Dr. F. my American friend, to the Royal Observatory. It is situated near the south wall of the city. The building is substantial, but not elegant in its structure.

Arrago, the Astronomer *en chef*, is one of the most distinguished *savans* of the Institut. We had the satisfaction to find him at his post, and willing to gratify us in relation to the institution over which he presides. Like most of the French philosophers I have conversed with, he appeared to be well acquainted

in the general, with the state of learning and science in the United States. He adverted to several papers in the Philosophical Transactions of America, criticised them with ability, condemned some as worthless, and commended others. He informed us that an officer, who left him just as we entered the observatory, had lately made many important observations in the Mediterranean. He had been through the Archipelago, and found that the coasts and islands are very erroneously laid down in the charts. Arrago was himself engaged, a few years since, in conjunction with Biot, in making observations on the southern coasts of France and Spain. The Spanish authorities, from a narrow and bigoted policy, obliged them to desist, not wishing to have their coasts measured. How very different a treatment did Biot afterwards receive in England and Scotland! Arrago went to Algiers, and ascertained that the African coast, as marked in the maps, is also extremely inaccurate. He conducted us over the observatory. A meridian line is drawn upon the floor, with great precision, from one wall to another. The sun's light is admitted through a hole in the window above, and falling on the meridian at twelve, serves to mark the seasons. The signs of the zodiac are drawn upon this line, as indicated by the sun's elevation. A reflecting telescope, as large as Dr. Herschel's second, is mounted on a huge frame, but so nicely as to turn with great ease. Several achromatic instruments are in the observatory. One of them, made in Paris, is preferred to Dollond's. Their transit instrument is an achromatic of five feet focus. They have one mural quadrant, and are erecting another. An accurate

register of the weather is kept at the observatory. Their clock, Arrago informed me, varies in six months only three-tenths of a second. Their magnetic needle is eighteen inches long, and is suspended by a thread. They have no dipping needle. We saw in the library, several volumes of logarithms, in manuscript, calculated for every second of the quadrant to the fiftieth decimal. The building of the observatory is very solid. The floors are of stone, and the whole is rendered fire-proof. It is not, I think, quite so well furnished with instruments as either Greenwich or Milan. We noticed, in the observatory, a statue of Cassini.

From this institution we went again to the grand cabinet of M. Charles, and found him engaged in showing prints and views to four men, and two women, by means of lamps and a dark chamber. Old as he is, he appears to take great delight in philosophical experiments.

14th. At the dinner table of an American, who is settled in Paris, I met to-day three or four of our countrymen, all young men, some of whom are pursuing science and learning with zeal and success, and will, if I mistake not, add something to the reputation of their native land, which, (the acknowledgment seems unavoidable,) is still in its infancy in learning, science, and the elegant arts.

15th. I went this morning through the mint, (*Hotel des monnaies*.) It is a noble building, on the south bank of the Seine, with a front of 360 feet long and 84 feet high. I was provided with a letter from Dr. E. an English physician, resident in Paris, to the Assayer of the mint, who was very polite in his atten-

tions, but my time did not admit of a minute inspection of the institution. The power used for the heavy work is that of horses. There are eight melting furnaces. The crucibles, except those for gold, are of wrought iron, each calculated to hold 150,000 francs of fused metal. Gold is melted in black lead crucibles, which come from Germany. The coining is performed by hand. The mint contains a good collection of minerals, and lectures on chemistry are delivered in one of its apartments.

A letter from the Prefect of the city, opened the way for us to visit the prisons, and we went to-day to two of those, which are considered as affording the best specimens of police regulation, with respect to the treatment of criminals. These were St. Lazare, and Magdalonette, both receptacles for women. On presenting ourselves at the former, we were surprised to find that the keeper knew us. We had been so exactly described in the instructions he had received for our admission, that he immediately recognised us, and he waited upon us through the prison with the greatest politeness. St. Lazare contains 600 female convicts. They are sentenced to labour and seclusion, from the term of five years, to perpetuity. The lodging rooms contain from three to six beds. In these they are classed according to their degrees of crime, age, &c. but in the work rooms there is no classification. The bed rooms are very decent. The infirmary contains 56 beds, rather too crowded, but in other respects, sufficiently clean and comfortable. Their labour consists of sewing, knitting, spinning, and weaving shawls. The latter are executed with surprising elegance, and are sold at a high price.

The prisoners, for want of sufficient space, are too closely stowed in their work shops. Certain wages are allowed them for their work, one third of which is paid them every fortnight, one third is reserved for them till the time of their discharge, and the other third goes to the government. The wages of some amount to 12 or 1500 francs, at the period of their exit. The refractory are punished by confinement to solitary rooms, beds of straw, and bread and water. The prisoners look remarkably well, and their deportment is more decent than one would imagine from such an accumulation of depravity. They have a large yard for exercise in the open air, where under proper superintendence they walk and play. Religious instruction is given them, or, more properly, perhaps, certain religious ceremonies are performed before them by a priest. This prison was formerly the convent of St. Lazare.

The Magdalonette, which we next visited, contains about 250 or 300 female prisoners, of which there are four descriptions, viz. : accused, convicts, debtors, and refractory children. The same departure from justice was obvious in this prison, which is found in too many other places. Those, who are merely *accused* of crime, are subjected, not only to incarceration in close rooms, but to miserable and scanty fare, and that for a long time,—but as soon as they are condemned, their accommodations are rendered comfortable, and work is given them by which they may earn wages. The keeper informed us that twenty months sometimes elapse between arrestation and trial. This is shameful injustice, especially in a city whose police is so strict, and armed with so much power.

Such treatment is also irreconcilable with that humanity, which is so conspicuous a trait in the charitable institutions of Paris. It arises probably, here, as in England and other places, partly from neglect, but principally from not duly considering that the delay of justice is actual oppression. There were ten females in the debtors' apartment—and the same number in the room appropriated to children that are incorrigible at home. Parents who cannot govern their children, have a right to represent the case to the president of the tribunal, who, after due examination, has power to send such refractory subjects to the Magdalonette. A mistress is here assigned them, and they are instructed in learning and work, and pains are taken to reclaim them from immoral habits. They are chiefly from families of low character. On our entering the room of these poor girls, they appeared ashamed of their situation, listened attentively to our remarks, and promised to take the advice we gave them. This prison has also been a convent. It was used, during the reign of terror, as a place of confinement for the suspected.

Upon the whole, the system of management in these two prisons, does credit to the judgment and humanity of the Duc de Liancourt, who, I am happy to say, was the first to point out to the French nation the great superiority of the humane course of treatment adopted in the United States. In his travels he has given a forcible and feeling exposition of the mildness of our penal code, and of the nature and efficacy of its operation.

16th. I visited, for the last time, the museum in the Garden of plants. This is a truly superb collection

of natural history. As a whole it is not surpassed, I presume, by any in the world. Taken in connexion with Cuvier's Anatomical Museum, in the same garden, it is really magnificent. It abounds with the finest specimens in every department of nature. The cabinet of minerals exceeds any thing I have seen out of Paris. In zoology it is rich. Among other rare animals are a large and a small rhinoceros. The birds are elegantly preserved. In marine productions, the variety is very extensive. The menagerie is particularly interesting, for none of the animals, except those that are untameably ferocious, are confined in close cages. They are kept in suitable enclosures, where they enjoy a free air, and a moderate share of exercise, and in which the trees and shrubs of their native climes, and the vegetables on which they are accustomed to feed, are, as far as practicable, made to flourish. The bears are kept in sunken caves, in which they move about at ease, and greatly amuse the spectators by climbing up the stumps of trees planted in the middle of the pits, and by other clumsy feats. The antelopes and deer kind are numerous. The variety of animals in this collection, I do not think so great as in that at Exeter Change, London, but they are far more agreeably exhibited.

From the Garden of Plants we went to the Hotel des Invalids, on the west side of the town. The large *gilded* dome of the chapel of this Institution, is one of the most conspicuous objects in a distant view of Paris. This establishment, like that of the Salpêtrière, is on a gigantic scale. It accommodates 4000 invalid soldiers. The *façade* is noble. The grounds

and gardens are ornamented with trees, and surrounded by iron palisadoes. Within the enclosure, there are, we were informed by good authority, seventeen acres under slate roof. The buildings encompass twenty-three courts of different sizes, the central one of which (*Cour Royale*) is very large. The kitchens are kept in the first rate style of neatness. The invalid officers dine in a large hall by themselves, on round tables, as in the corresponding establishment at Avignon. The chapel is a superb specimen of architecture. It is considered indeed, by most persons, as the chef d'œuvre of French skill. The floor is finely tessellated. In the centre is a large and beautiful fleur-de-lis, with other ornaments, made of variously coloured marble. Two elegant monuments also decorate the interior, one of Vauban, and the other of Turenne. On the outside are four leaden statues, representing Justice, Strength, Charity, and Fortitude. The interior of the large dome was painted by La Fosse. The cross which surmounts it is 335 feet from the ground. The hospital, that is to say, the *infirmary*, contains 700 beds, and is kept in neat condition. But this extraordinary attention to the physical necessities of these old soldiers, has not been the only care of the founders of this establishment; their intellectual wants have been also thought of. The Institution contains a library of 20,000 volumes, pleasantly situated in one of the north buildings. We found many of the invalids in it, occupied with their books. The grounds around the building, are laid out in gravelled walks for exercise in the open air.

This hotel, with that of a similar kind at Avignon, are splendid evidences of the bounty of the govern-

ment towards those who have offered their lives at the shrine of its ambition or its folly. So far as the motive of pure humanity has prompted these establishments, they do the utmost credit to their founders and supporters; but who can say that an impulse of this kind, separate from the desire of stimulating the martial spirit of the nation, and of encouraging the people to a devotion to the calls of their rulers, in the dreadful conflict of arms, would ever have been sufficient to lay such foundations as these. One's benevolent sensibilities may indeed be agreeably excited, in observing such a comfortable provision for shattered frames and broken constitutions, but it seems impossible to avoid the reflection, that if the paternal care of governments were thus bountifully extended to those who should signalize themselves, by their efforts to preserve nations in peace, and to promote their civil and moral prosperity, how much more seldom should we hear of the desolations of war; how much more frequently of the triumphs of justice and moderation!

On our return we stopped at the House of Deputies. This was formerly the palace de Bourbon. It is beautifully situated on the Seine, at the foot of *Pont Louis XVI.*, and commands a fine view of the garden of the Thuilleries, and Elysian fields. The architecture of the building is at once simple and noble. The principal entrance is a single portico, with a colonnade of the Corinthian order on each side, and the front, towards the bridge, consists of twelve Corinthian columns, surmounted by a well proportioned pediment. The sides of the pediment are decorated with statues of Sully, Colbert, L'Hôpital,

and D'Aguesseau, and at the bottom of the steps are Minerva and the Genius of France. This building was erected by the Duchess of Bourbon, in 1772, after the designs of Girardini, an Italian architect.

The chamber was in session, and we found no difficulty in gaining admission to the gallery. The room in which the Deputies assemble, is of a semicircular, or perhaps semi-elliptical form. The president's seat is in a recess on the straight side, and considerably elevated. In front and beneath him, are the clerks, and stools for the huissers or tip-staffs. Benches covered with blue leather, are reserved for such of the ministers as have occasion to attend the assembly. The members are very conveniently arranged in circular lines, but instead of rising and speaking from their seats, they have to come out on the floor and mount a rostrum. A number of the front seats are cushioned, but not the whole, nor does the carpet extend over the whole floor. The gallery goes round the circular side of the house, but is so narrow as to contain but a very moderate number of spectators. This chamber is very superior to the House of Commons in London, both in appearance and accommodations. It is ornamented by six statues of ancient orators and statesmen, and under the president's chair are two figures in bas-relief, of History and Fame. At the time of our visit, they were canvassing for some officers of the house, so that we heard no speaking.

A considerable portion of almost every day, since my return to Paris, has been taken up with the attendance of lectures, in several of the schools and colleges which abound in it. There is nothing in the

history of this remarkable and eventful capital, which reflects higher credit on the government and police, than the extensive patronage which has been afforded to literature and science, and the very liberal foundation on which its schools have been placed. Its halls of instruction, supplied with the most able teachers in almost every branch of human knowledge, are open to the gratuitous admission of students, from any part of the world. The professors are paid by the government, and according to their respective abilities, or the nature of the subjects which they treat of, will be the number of their auditors. Some of the rooms are, accordingly, crowded to excess, while others are very thinly attended.

The number of students which resort to Paris, during the winter session of the schools, is variously estimated. As far as I am able to judge, from observation and inquiry, it must, including the different classes of medicine, law, theology, general physics, mathematics, language, &c., fall very little short of 7000. They are distributed, however, into numerous schools. In no one lecture room, which I attended, did the number exceed 500, and seldom, indeed, more than 400. The number of medical students, is said to be 2000, but they are broken up into small divisions, in consequence of the variety of schools and hospitals, which the metropolis contains. The school of medicine, regularly patronised by the government, is situated in a street to which it gives a name, (*Rue de l'Ecole de Medecine.*) The principal building is a large and handsome edifice, the four parts of which enclose a spacious court. The front on the street, has a peristyle of Ionic pillars of colossal size. Over

these is an attic which contains the library and anatomical museum. The latter is a very extensive, rich, and important collection of both healthy and morbid preparations of all parts of the human body. The number of wax preparations, too, is very considerable, and of fine execution. In this respect it yields only to the celebrated museum of Florence, so much enriched by the inimitable labours of Fontana. It is a thing quite characteristic of French manners, and which at first surprised me, that females are among the spectators of this museum, in which all the secrets of the human frame are plainly exhibited. The same mixture of the sexes in similar institutions, takes place I have been informed in Italy. It requires no logic to prove the tendency of such a departure from the prudent delicacies of social intercourse. This is emphatically shown, in the facts to which I have already frequently alluded. Various sculptured figures and devices decorate this building. In surgery the Parisian school is doubtless superior to any other in the world. The opportunities for obtaining practical instruction, are no where equalled. In addition to the most able professors, and numerous public hospitals, there is a hospital in the immediate vicinity of the school, and forming in some measure part of the establishment, in which patients labouring under rare and peculiarly interesting diseases, are gratuitously received.

A brief account of some of the professors and lectures, which I have attended, may not perhaps be unacceptable. My attendance was limited chiefly to those branches of knowledge, which were to me objects of the most immediate interest.

Chemistry in the medical school, is taught by Vauquelin and Deyeux. Of these, I heard only the former. He has been long distinguished as supereminent in the art of chemical analysis. To his patient and ingenious labours, continued from the dawn of modern chemistry, to the present time, the science is deeply indebted. His voice and delivery are too feeble and indistinct for a good lecturer, and his innate and characteristic modesty, prevents him from making those exertions which can alone secure the whole attention of his audience. He is assisted by an able operator, whose experiments constitute much of the attraction to this part of the medical course. Thenard is the chemical professor in the college of France. He delivers also a popular course in a room of the old college de Plessy, Rue St. Jaques, an apartment badly calculated for so important a purpose. The room is too small, and has but few conveniences. It is generally filled to overflowing nearly half an hour before the lecture commences. Thenard, on the whole, is an able professor. His style is plain. He sometimes aspires to elegance, but does not always succeed, even to his own satisfaction. I have known him, after having nearly finished a sentence, stop, and after saying, with apparent vexation, "Gentlemen, I express myself badly," begin the sentence again, and go over the explanation more to his liking. There is rather less evidence of taste and genius in his style of lecturing, than in that of some others, but he is well acquainted with his subject, and stands remarkably well with his class.

Gay Lussac lectures in the same room, but on different days. His province, in this college, is natural

philosophy, (*physique*.) There is, perhaps, greater anxiety to hear him, than Thenard. He is, in all respects, an able professor, except that his utterance is too rapid for the clear comprehension of some of his auditors. He enters into the spirit of his matter, and evinces a profound acquaintance with the principles of experimental science. He uses very short notes, mere memoranda of the divisions of his lecture. His manner is sufficiently animated, though he confines himself very closely to his text. His language is precise and correct, but it does not lay claim to eloquence. He is quick in his perceptions, and rigid in his deductions. He is a man of undoubted genius, and is excelled by very few, either as a philosopher or lecturer. I regretted, however, to find that even with the two last named very popular teachers, national prejudice had so undue a hold upon their minds, as to make its appearance in the lecture room. There was an obvious and continued effort to refer the great discoveries in science, as far as it could possibly be done, even by a strained construction, to a French origin; and a corresponding disinclination to admit the claims of English philosophers. This is a kind of vanity that is utterly beneath the dignity of philosophy, and can be accounted for, as I conceive, only on the ground of an early and settled prejudice, embodied, probably, with the precepts of the nursery, and cherished by the whole tenor of education.

Brogniart, also, delivers his course on mineralogy, in this building. The venerable Abbé Haüy, who is associated with him, only gives a few opening discourses, and leaves the subject to the disposal of his

able coadjutor.* Brogniart, is animated and perspicuous. He is an excellent mineralogist. His class is not large; for unless the specimens exhibited, are suffered to be handed round, which is here seldom permitted, the subject is divested of its chief attraction, and of much of its utility. The display of a specimen, in the professor's hand, is of little service, except to those who are contiguous to the table. By entering into the economical uses of the minerals, as well as their geological relations, he furnishes his class with a rich fund of information.

Francœur, the professor of algebra in this college, and of whom I have spoken, as secretary of the Society for promoting Education, is a good mathematician, and a very able professor. His style of lecturing is of the best kind. He is a person of social and agreeable manners, and of diversified acquirements. An acquaintance of mine, informed me that at the conclusion of an opera, one evening, he was astonished to see this learned professor come from the orchestra, where, as a simple amateur, he had been taking part in the musical performances. Being well acquainted with him, he expressed his surprise, by remarking, "Mr. Francœur, is it possible that this is you?" "Oh.

* The worthy and amiable Abbé Haüy, was buried on the third of June, 1822. His death was occasioned by a fall in his cabinet, on the 14th of the preceding month, by which he fractured the neck of the *os femoris*. The procession and ceremony of his funeral were so great, that more than four hours were occupied between his residence, in the garden, and Père la Chaise, including the rites performed in his parish church. At the grave, Baron Cuvier pronounced a discourse, remarkable for its pathetic eloquence, and its forcible delineation of the character and genius of his lamented colleague.

oui, Monsieur," was his frank reply, "je me mêle en tout."

Poisson, the professor of theoretical mechanics, is also a first rate professor, but his subjects require so much previous knowledge of mathematics, and such deep and undivided attention, the number of his hearers is necessarily small. Dinet, on astronomy, has a still smaller class; not more than a dozen; a fact which I am incompetent to explain, unless it arise from the absence of apparatus, and of those powers of attraction, which some of his colleagues possess. Delambre, one of the perpetual secretaries of the institute, also lectures on astronomy, but principally on the abstract theory of the science.*

Blainville, on comparative anatomy, appeared to me to combine, in a very high degree, the various qualities of a most able professor. His powers of illustration are of the first order, and the subject of his course, is, in his hands, one of the most interesting and instructive, to an intelligent audience. His class is respectable, though very inferior in size to those on chemistry and natural philosophy, because these last are subjects more immediately applicable to the general concerns of life

Cuvier did not lecture, during my stay in Paris. Since his appointment as counsellor to the king, his attention has, I believe, been a good deal *diverted* from his professorship, though its duties are not considered

* This learned astronomer, and distinguished member of the Royal Academy of Sciences, died at Paris, August 27th, 1822, aged seventy-two. His remains were deposited in the cemetery of Père la Chaise; and three of his colleagues, Cuvier, Biot, and Arrago, expressed in three discourses, listened to with emotion, the grief which his loss occasioned to the friends of science.

as incompatible with the dignities of his new office. I heard an amusing and talkative discourse from his associate in the chair, a person, however, very inferior to him in talent and science.

Le Fevre de Gineau, an elderly gentleman, delivers a course on general and experimental physics, in the college of France. His style is verbose and tedious, though plain and intelligible. Of the professors on practical medicine and surgery, I heard but few. Majendie, (on physiology,) is a very dexterous and agreeable teacher. I attended one of his discourses at the Athenæum, a scientific institution on the north of the Seine, supported by public patronage. The lectures are here attended by both sexes, although Blainville treats of animal physiology, and that without much reserve. The audience was large, and apparently very respectable.

Dupuytren has the reputation of being one of the best surgeons, and teachers of surgery, in the world. He is the principal operator, and surgeon in chief, at the Hotel Dieu. My time afforded but one opportunity of hearing him, before his large class, in the theatre of that extensive hospital. He performed before the class several interesting operations. Though his manners are said to be ordinarily very rough, his treatment of the suffering patients, was gentle, humane, and indeed almost paternal. He addressed them always by the kind appellation of "mon enfant," or "ma petite." His remarks to the audience are manly, clear, and energetic. His popularity appeared to me to be well merited. Among the numerous private teachers of science, the most popular, in chemistry, is Dr. Orfila, and in natural philo-

sophy, M. Tremere. The former is a professor of very considerable merit, and is accordingly attended by a numerous class, notwithstanding that his room is in a close, dirty part of the town, the ascent to it up three pair of stairs, narrow and crooked, and the room itself, in a garret, coarse and inconvenient. The view he takes of chemical science, appeared, as far as I observed it, to be rather superficial, and I was surprised to find him unacquainted with several important results, obtained by English chemists, in relation to the subject he was treating of. Prejudice, or even neglect to inquire into the merits of other people, is, in no case, less excusable, than in one who undertakes to explain the actual condition of a science, and to do justice to the merits of those, of whatever nation, whose genius has been devoted to the discovery of its truths. The results to which I allude, were not of very recent determination. Orfila, as far as his knowledge extends, is a perspicuous and impressive lecturer. Tremere has a splendid and costly apparatus, and is familiar in the use of it; but his manner is feeble, though he frequently aims at great earnestness and importance.

There are many other schools which my limited time did not allow me to attend. This hasty sketch, will, I hope, serve to furnish a general and tolerably correct notion of the opportunities which Paris affords for gaining scientific instruction. In no place are the opportunities so numerous, of pursuing knowledge, or the means so accessible and so cheap. This, as might be expected, brings to the metropolis numerous young men of moderate fortunes and expectations in life. The lecture-rooms accordingly, do

not present so respectable an appearance, with regard to dress and manners as those in America or England. There is a rudeness and selfishness of behaviour apparent, which is often very disgusting. This *brusquerie*, is indeed a very common thing among the middle and lower ranks, both in and out of Paris; and it is certainly of a nature sufficiently repulsive. But though the French are justly chargeable with this fault, they are exempt from another of an opposite character, but equally offensive to good taste, which now seems fairly to have become the vice of English society, and is finding its way into our American cities. I mean the vice of *Dandyism*. I do not mean to say there is no foppery in French manners. The character of their *petits maîtres*, has been too long famous to justify the assertion. But a French *petit maître* is a very different, and I think, a much more tolerable being, than an English dandy. The former, with his flowered waistcoat and chapeau bras, is the essence of politeness, and is disposed to please every body,—the latter stiffened with corsets, and dressed in the tip of the mode, stalks through a company, as if he were the only object in it worthy of being noticed. If he condescends to look at the world around, it is only through the glass, which, suspended from his neck, by a delicate ribbon, is ever and anon, applied to one eye.

Having secured a seat in the diligence for Brussels, and taken leave of my Parisian acquaintance, I intend leaving the city to-morrow morning. I shall leave it, on the whole, without regret, notwithstanding that there are many interesting places, institutions and persons, which my time and engagements have not

permitted me to see. To a person accustomed from early life to the solemnities of Protestant worship, the consolations of religious fellowship, and the decencies of a Christian Sabbath, Paris appears to be but a half Christianized city. It is a compound of gayety and misery, of splendour and wretchedness, of elegance and filthiness, of exuberant charities, and cold hearted selfishness; and these in greater extremes than one meets with in almost any other part of the world. Yet I do not wonder that so many English and Americans choose to make it their residence. To persons of a certain cast of mind, it furnishes no ordinary attractions. There is such an independence of feeling, such a freedom from all restraint, such an entire liberty to live and to act as inclination may prompt, and that without incurring any risk of reputation, even with the best society, that young men may easily be seduced to regard it as almost the only place where rational freedom can be enjoyed. To many foreigners it is an enchanted palace; but, alas for those who have become fairly entangled in the spell of the sorceress! They may, indeed, make their escape after a time from her immediate influence, but there is a danger that the poison she has instilled, may pervade the constitution, and extend its delusive workings to the verge of life.

17th. My fellow-traveller and room-mate Dr. S***, having deemed it necessary for him to go directly from Paris to England by way of Dieppe; I left him this morning at five o'clock, and pursued my way to the *Grand Cour des Diligences*, the great starting point of those who diverge from this general focus of European attraction. The day had scarcely dawn-

ed, and the morning was extremely cold. A considerable number of persons had already commenced their daily exercises, and were stirring in the streets. In crossing Pont Neuf I noticed a poor woman asleep at her regular station, by the side of her coffee-pot, whose contents were thus in danger of parting rapidly with one of the qualities necessary to render it merchantable on such a frosty morning. The inside of the diligence was full, there being five besides myself, two of whom were females. At Villette, in the suburbs of Paris, our postillion encountered a large wagon that was just driving out of a yard, and, unfortunately for our expedition, the pole of our vehicle was broken in two. The conducteur, who is always commander in chief, after blustering notably against the driver of the wagon, sent the postillion to Paris for the fore-wheels and tongue of another carriage: in the mean time the passengers retired to a neighbouring *café*, and consoled themselves with the entertainment it afforded. It was not long before we were in a condition to resume our seats, and proceed forward. We dined at Pont St. Maxence, and continued our journey all night, stopping about ten o'clock, at a small town to take supper. The weather continued very cold through the day. The fields and roads have remained covered with a thick hoar frost, like snow, which the sun had not power to dissolve. The diligence was so easy in its motions I was able to sleep comfortably much of the night.

18th. We arrived at Cambray to breakfast. An ancient looking town, but more agreeable in its aspect than those in the south of France. The gene-

ral appearance of the country, also, on this side of Paris, is decidedly in favour of northern cultivation. The roads are in good order, being paved in the middle with large squared stones. This town is celebrated for having been the residence of Fenelon; and it is a fact worthy of notice, that a subscription has recently been opened for erecting a monument to him in this place. This project has been liberally supported by Lafitte & Co. a rich banking house in Paris, and will, probably, ere long be completed. Every town we pass through on our approach to the Netherlands, is walled and fortified. My fellow-passengers in the diligence were of a more agreeable and respectable character, than those which I happened to fall in with on advancing to Paris from the south. One of the females was, according to her own account, a Welshwoman who had married a French officer while he was a prisoner on parole in Wales, and had been for some time settled with him in France. The other was the wife of a wealthy citizen at Valenciennes. Her husband, as I was told by one of the passengers, had become rich by smuggling. It is remarkable, that notwithstanding the great vigilance, and extreme rigour of the government, unlicensed trade is carried on to a great extent. Even the severe penalties of English law cannot prevent the transport of continental jewelry, and other valuable articles, across the channel, into England. Indeed the *insurance* of the safe conveyance of watches and other goods from Geneva to London, may be effected in the former city, at a moderate premium. Numerous seizures are made, it is true, but great numbers escape. It would seem as if

the crime consisted, as in ancient Sparta, not so much in smuggling the goods as in being detected in the act.

Our company kept up, during their waking hours, an almost incessant talk, evincing, as occasions presented, not a little personal, as well as national vanity. One of the men was a Fleming, a teacher in Brussels, who spoke good English. Another was a fat draper of Paris, and the third, a hale old gentleman of seventy-eight, who, in a style of true gallantry, gave up his seat inside to a female way-passenger, and rode all night in the open cabriolet.

We dined at Valenciennes. This town is doubly fortified. It is surrounded by an outer and inner wall, and each with its wide deep fossé. It has remained, since the last cessation of arms, in possession of English troops, but has just been given up, with other places on the frontier of France, to the French, and the English have gone, or are now going home. This gives rise to numerous mutual congratulations and rejoicings, and is the subject of much conversation. Nothing has been more galling to the nation, than to have these foreigners quartered upon them, at their expense, and for so long a time. It is acknowledged, however, that the English have conducted well, during their possession of the fortresses, and there are not a few who regret their departure, especially among the dealers, whose trade, of course, will have suffered by the change. The English are spoken of, in much milder terms, than the Prussians.

On our approach to Valenciennes, the rich contrabander, uneasy at the delay of the diligence, (for we had been detained nearly two hours, by the untoward

accident at setting off,) met his wife, in an elegant gig, and seemed rejoiced to find that nothing was the matter. In America, it would be thought singular, that a man of property, should suffer his wife to travel in a public vehicle, for two days and a night, without a special protection; "but in France they manage things differently:" indeed, the lady, by her intelligence, spirit, and firmness of character, was evidently very capable of taking care of herself.

On entering Flanders, last night, our baggage was examined with considerable strictness, and nothing found amiss. Our route lay through Mons, where we made a short stop. This is an agreeable place, of about 20,000 inhabitants. The church is an object of curiosity, to the lover of antiquity, from its ornamented and venerable appearance. Mons is noted for its manufacturing industry. Our journey was not delayed by the recurrence of night.

19th. About two, A. M. we stopped at Soignies, a short time, to warm and refresh ourselves, and reached Brussels about nine in the morning, entering it, as in the case of other towns, through gates, and over bridges. At the hotel de Flandres, I obtained good quarters, and enjoyed the comforts of a fire, in a private apartment, and of servants, prompt to obey every wish. This is more like an English inn, than any I have met with on the continent; and every experienced traveller, will probably admit, that there is no situation in life, in which a person enjoys more intensely the luxury of independence, than in quarters like this, in which, after a long and fatiguing journey, one finds himself surrounded with all the means of ra-

tional gratification, and at the command of those whose interest it is to extend their most obliging and grateful civilities.

LETTER XXIII.

Amsterdam, 12th month, (Dec.) 25, 1818.

MY DEAR *****,

MY letters to L. J. M*****, a wealthy merchant, who some years ago, resided in Philadelphia, and has long been associated in business with some of my friends there, were of so particular a kind, as to ensure me a very hospitable reception, a kind and general invitation to his table and fire-side, at any time during my stay.

The situation of Brussels is singularly agreeable, in a fertile region undulating with hills and vallies, and surrounded, at least on one side, by a public promenade, which completely overlooks the town, and adjacent country. This promenade, is on the ruins of a former rampart, and is uncommonly delightful. It is wide and spacious, and shaded with lofty trees. In walking round the town, with M*****, this afternoon, we met prince Frederick, son of the present king. He was taking an airing on horseback, and in passing, saluted us with as much politeness, as a common citizen would have done. Brussels is now the royal residence, though the king and his family spend part of the year at the Hague. The palace is a plain

building, opposite to the park ; and adjacent to it, is another, in which the king's mother resides. On the other side of the park, is an edifice, much more noble in its appearance than the palace. This is the residence of the heir apparent, the Prince of Orange. whose wife is the sister of the Emperor Alexander. The prince and his wife were pointed out to me, as they were walking in the public grounds. They live in great domestic harmony, and are much beloved by the people. They have been married two years and a half, and have three children.

The park of Brussels is the most agreeable public promenade within the enclosure of a city, which I have yet seen. In the splendour of art it does not compare with the Thuilleries or the Luxemburg, but its natural attractions are more abundant and various. It contains mounds and vallies, fish ponds, and lofty trees which must spread a delightful foliage in hot weather. The buildings all around the park are of the best kind. The houses in Brussels are not so high as in Paris. The streets are generally without side walks, and paved with large stones, but they are wider and cleaner than those of Paris. The houses are of brick, and covered with cement. Many of them are built with the gable next the street. Water is distributed through the town, and flows freely from the public fountains. One of these called the "manneken pisse," will unavoidably arrest the attention of the passing stranger. It is a bronze figure of a boy, spouting a constant stream, at which the women of the neighbourhood fill their buckets. This is certainly censurable for its indelicacy.

20th. After a refreshing night's rest, I repaired to a caffè and took breakfast, much in the same mode as in Paris, and for which the same price, very nearly, was demanded. Although this was the first day of the week, the billiard room of the caffè was not unoccupied. Many of the shops too were open, and people were busily engaged in their worldly callings, but not to the same extent as in France. The population of Brussels is about 66,000, of which 5 or 6000 only, are Protestants. There are three Protestant churches. I went to the great cathedral during the time of service, and found in it a large band of soldiers, going through their religious exercises, which, excepting the ceremonials of the priests, appeared to consist, chiefly, of music and marches along the aisles of the church. This edifice is very large, and of an antique structure. Its painted windows make a striking appearance. After satisfying my curiosity here, I went to the Lutheran church, but was too late to see the king and princes, who had attended the service and retired. Thence I proceeded to the French Protestant chapel, the pastor of which is the intimate friend of L. J. M. and his family. I heard most of the sermon, and could not but consider it as the production of pious and Christian feelings. The queen was present with her chamberlain. Her appearance, dress, and deportment, would not have induced me to suspect her quality, had not the equipages stationed at the door, on my going in, led me to make the inquiry. When the service was over, the audience rose, and the queen, who had been seated near the pulpit, walked calmly along the passage and entered

her carriage at the door. As she passed by me (for I was stationed next the aisle) my dress probably attracted her notice. She turned her eye upon me, and made a slight inclination of her head. She is the sister of the king of Prussia, apparently of middle age, and of an agreeable and interesting countenance.

At the house and table of M***** I met C*****, the pastor whose sermon I had just heard. We had much conversation on religion, and other collateral topics, in which he evinced a liberal mind, and a mild and Christian temper. Our friend M***** has an amiable German wife, and seven fine children, constituting one of the most agreeable families I have seen on the continent. They live in opulence and taste.

21st. The Museum of Brussels, in which I spent nearly an hour, contains an interesting collection of about 200 paintings, 30 of which are from the pencil of Rubens. Many of these, of large size, have been brought back from the Louvre, since the restitution of the plundered treasure. I took no notes of the particular merits of any of the pieces in this collection, but, like any other person that has the least relish for the fine arts, I could not but be pleased with this museum. The rooms are badly lighted. The same buildings contain a chemical laboratory, and a large collection of philosophical apparatus. Having an introduction to Professor Dekin, I found him in a building, which, as a sort of director general, he was preparing for a royal institute of arts and sciences. A new impulse has recently been felt on these subjects, and the fostering aid of the government has been lent to their promotion. Professor D.

has the zeal requisite for such an undertaking, combined with those acquirements in science which qualify him for the task. His philosophical apparatus is very fine, but he has hitherto been under the necessity of procuring it at his own expense. The cabinet of natural history is not very extensive, but it is intended when the new institute is opened, to place it on a better foundation.

I went to the hospital de St. Pierre, where I found about 200 patients. There was an evident want of classification, in the diseases. This neglect, was indeed more evident, than I remember to have noticed in any other hospital. The female patients were very coarsely dressed; but they are chiefly paupers; the institution being supported by government, and private donations. The hospital St. John which I next saw, contains 207 patients. It is managed by thirty sisters, but they are different from the French Sisters of Charity, in manners and appearance, and I should imagine, less dexterous in the exercise of their hospital duties. Their dress is singular. The principal garment resembles a very large shawl, with an opening in the centre, through which the head passes, the other parts extending over the shoulders to the feet. The same want of division and separation exists in this as in the other hospital. The beds are without curtains, and too much crowded. This institution is strictly Catholic. Crucifixes are dispersed through the house, and in the yard is a wooden image of the Saviour, seated under a shed, with a crown of thorns on his head, and a calico gown hung over his shoulders! I observed as I came out, a woman kneeling before this image! One of the sisters ac-

accompanied me through the house, and with the most obliging affability, gave me all the information I wished. The assistant surgeon also, was very kind in answering my questions. They adopt the principles of treatment recommended by Broussais, and have almost discarded the use of bark in fevers; but the patients, I thought, looked unusually bad. This hospital has funds for its support.

I proceeded to one of the prisons, provided with a letter to the keeper, from the pastor C*****. There were in confinement, seventeen women, and four times that number of men. They sleep two in a room only, and in one bed. The floor is of brick, or earth. The rooms appeared clean. No labour is performed, and yet they are managed so discreetly, that none were in irons.

I dined to-day with a wealthy Dutch gentleman, whose wife is an English lady, of agreeable and accomplished manners. They had large possessions in Demerara, and have lived, as their inclination or convenience prompted them, in various parts of the world; in the West-Indies, in London, Amsterdam, Paris, &c. In the evening, the carriage drove up to the door, and the lady politely offered me a ticket, to attend a concert of Madame Catalini. It was announced as the last entertainment, that this celebrated songstress intended to give. She has realised, by the exhibition of her musical powers, a fortune upon which she means to retire. The temptation was strong; but not wishing to break in upon my usual habits, founded, as they have been, upon the precepts of education, and of subsequent conviction, I excused myself, and remained with her less fashionable husband, to

discuss whatever topics might chance to mingle with the smoke of our pipes.

Brussels is very much resorted to by the English, and other wealthy foreigners, as a temporary residence, on account of the beauty and healthiness of its situation. Such accessions to its population, do not, it is probable, add much to the morality of the city. The English stranger meets with evidences of depravity, which are not found even in Paris. He is accosted, in the street, by boys who speak English well enough to make themselves understood, and who are employed as the panders of vice, in its lowest forms. It is difficult to find terms of reprobation, sufficiently strong, to characterize so heinous a practice. The Protestants, it is to be feared, do not maintain, by the sincerity of their religious observances, that weight in the community, which the cause of truth so loudly calls for. There is more of lukewarmness, than of pious zeal, in their forms of religion. One circumstance, which I was credibly informed of, has thrown great discredit on the Protestant cause. Two English ministers, while in the exercise of their clerical functions, quarrelled with each other; a challenge was given, and accepted, and the dispute was settled by pistols. Thus reconciled, they resumed their stations in the church, and still continue to preach!

I spent the evening with M*****, and family, and their worthy friend C*****, and took a kind leave of them, at a late hour, preparatory to an early departure in the morning, for Antwerp.

22d. The diligence, in which I left Brussels, had three seats inside, an economy which marks the Dutch character, for I have seen nothing like it before, in

Europe. Our road lay along a spacious canal, the water of which had been thickly frozen, but was broken, to admit the passage of the *Treckschuit*, and other boats. We changed horses at Fontaine, near Vilvorde, at which place is a public prison, containing 1500 subjects. It is one of the two principal *maisons de force*, in the Netherlands. The other is at Ghent. Manufactories of various kinds, are conducted by the prisoners. Brussels is noted for the variety, elegance, and convenience of the carriages which are made in it. They are also manufactured in this prison. I regretted that I had not time to examine the interior regulations of so large and famous an establishment.

We changed again at Malines, a town of 16,000 inhabitants, with a large Gothic cathedral, of remarkable architecture. The steeple is 348 feet high. An extensive open area appears in the middle of the town. The country around is in delightful cultivation. If nothing further occurred, to convince me that I had passed the borders of France, the superior cleanliness of the villages would be sufficient. The ground in the fields is thrown up into high ridges, on account of the wetness of the soil. The turnips appear very fine, and the green wheat promises a good crop. I arrived at Antwerp, (distant from Brussels, thirty-three miles,) about noon. At the Hotel de L'Ours, kept by La Veuve Fontaine, in the beautiful place de Meir, I was furnished with good quarters. Engaging, without delay, a valet de place, I commenced an immediate march through the town. Meeting in the street with a person for whom I had a letter, he gave me a prompt and gentlemanly invitation to dine with him, at five o'clock.

One of the first objects, to which the guide conducted me, was the great cathedral of Notre Dame. The tower of this edifice, is considered by the Antwerp-ers, as the finest in the world. It is, in reality, a most imposing object, and with the cathedral, is the grandest in the low countries, and is not exceeded by many in Europe, for Gothic sumptuousness and taste. The tower, or steeple, is $451\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, besides the cross, which is elevated fifteen feet higher. The church itself, is 500 feet long, and 230 wide. Within, there are 230 vaulted arcades, supported by 125 columns. Prior to the French revolution, this edifice contained thirty-two marble altars, and on fête days was ornamented by 100 chandeliers, in massive silver, and other ornaments in proportion. The first stone of the great choir was laid by the Emperor Charles V. The chief altar was erected in 1624, according to a design of Rubens, who, it is well known, was an architect as well as a painter. The tower contains a chime of 60 bells. One of them was of an enormous size; its weight being stated at 16,000 lbs. It was baptized in 1507, the Emperor Charles V. standing as its godfather! It requires sixteen men to give it a full sound.

In 1797 the interior of this cathedral became the sport of the Vandal spirit of the revolution. The altars were torn down, the pictures and ornaments were sold at auction, and the whole of the inside converted into a heap of ruins. This, however, has eventually contributed most essentially to the improvement of the church. Instead of the cumbrous masses of wall which composed the numerous altars, and the monuments which obscured the view, the

dilapidated interior was cleared out, the superfluous walls removed, and a more light, airy, and agreeable form given to the whole body of this superb structure. Although it has been despoiled of the greater proportion of splendid paintings which it once contained, it is still ornamented with a very considerable number, and among them the famous *chef d'œuvre* of Rubens, the descent from the cross. This, of course, was one of the first objects of attention on entering the church. The first emotion was rather that of surprise, at seeing a picture so much smaller than many others of the same great artist,—but a slight examination is sufficient to banish every feeling of disappointment, and to excite one's admiration. Notwithstanding that a description of this picture has been given by numerous travellers, and is familiar to almost every amateur, I may be excused for attempting a very brief account of it. It consists of three separate parts. The central picture is the taking down of the dead body of the Saviour from the cross, by his friends and disciples, who are wrapt in profound grief, yet mingled with the expression of love and veneration. The principal figure, the body, is represented with wonderful dignity and beauty. The proportion of the figures, the light and shade, the sublimity of the design, the natural and pathetic attitudes, the rich yet grave colouring, render this central piece an object that must kindle in the mind of every lover of the art, the most lively and powerful sensations. The side pictures will not diminish the effect. Their juxtaposition is singular. They are each of them on a door or shutter, which is fastened by hinges to the main picture, and folds over it. When shut, the

whole is enclosed as in a case or closet, and is thus preserved from dust. The last shutter represents the *visitation*. The Virgin is beautifully, but very simply dressed. She wears a hat resembling those now worn by female peasants. Her countenance and attitude are indicative of great sweetness and simplicity, and she is pointing with her finger in such a way as to signify the impression upon her mind. She is at the house of Zachariah, whose wife, Elizabeth, receives her with joy. The right shutter is illustrative of the *purification*. The parents of the Saviour present him at the temple, in order to fulfil the law. The priest, who here represents the good old Simeon, receives the infant in his arms, and gives thanks to heaven in having thus permitted him to see the salvation of Israel. The composition of these side pieces is exquisite, evincing the most correct and delicate taste, the justest notions of architectural proportions, and the sublime, at least, of the poetry of religion. The *tout ensemble* of this production may, I think, as has been said of it, be justly placed, with a few others, at the throne of the art.

At the foot of the great tower of this cathedral is the epitaph of Quintin Matsys, the celebrated blacksmith. It is this,

“ Quintino Metslis, incomparabilis Artis Pictoris, admiratrix grataque
anno post obitum sæculari CIO. ID. C. XXIX. posuit (1629.)”

And on a side escutcheon,

“ Connubialis amor de Mulcibre fecit Apellem.”

And below, on his grave-stone, is this inscription in the Flemish language,

“ Sepulture van Mr. Quinten Matsys, in Zynen tyd Grof-smed ende daer naer fameuzen Schilder, stierft anno 1529.”

His story is simply the following. While pursuing his calling as a blacksmith, he fell in love with the daughter of a painter, and on applying to the father for leave to marry her, he received the repulsive answer that none but an artist should ever receive her at his hands. Piqued at this reply, he laid aside his hammer, took up the pencil, studied diligently, travelled into Italy, and in a short time returned to Antwerp, and entering the cathedral privately, he painted upon a picture of the fallen angels by Frans Flore, a large fly, as in the act of settling on the thigh of one of the angels. The father of the young lady for whom he had made this pilgrimage to Rome, had charge of the pictures in the church, and on coming in some time after, saw the intrusive insect, took out his handkerchief, and attempted to brush it off. Astonished at the deception, he inquired for the author, and learning that it was Matsys, he sent for him, and freely gave his consent to the possession of his daughter.

A few feet from the base of the tower, is a well surrounded by an iron railing executed by Matsys. It is said to be the last work which he performed in that species of labour. He afterward entirely resigned the anvil for the easel.

In walking upon the quay of the river, I was surprised to find the stream so rapid; for having derived my prepossessions from Goldsmith's line,

“ Or by the lazy *Scheld* or wandering *Po*,”

I had expected to find an inert and sluggish stream; but the current has an unusual velocity, for so wide a

river. Its width is more than 700 yards, and its depth at low water, between thirty and forty feet. The tide rises about 20 feet. Bonaparte expended vast sums of money, (according to some accounts 40,000,000 francs,) in improving this port. The quays were new modelled and rendered wide, substantial and convenient. The ship yard, erected by his order, contained at one time on the stocks, fifteen ships of the line, while twenty others were completely equipped in the stream. But happily for the comfort of travellers, "tout cela est fini," as my guide remarked. The trade of Antwerp has greatly suffered by the late political changes, but there are now many foreign ships in the port. It was exceedingly obvious that the American vessels were the best built, or at least, that they were of the most elegant and perfect structure.

On the quays were mountebanks exhibiting their tricks, for the money they might collect. This practice has not yet reached our principal cities; I mean of showing slight of hand tricks, plays, and buffoonery in the streets, or public places, and then handing round a hat to collect the voluntary pay of the vulgar audience.

Antwerp has been the cradle of the fine arts. It was the great centre of the Flemish school. Besides Matsys, Fran. Floris, the two Brills, Snyder and some others, Peter Paul Rubens, and his pupil Anthony Van Dyck, were citizens of Antwerp; either of whom alone would have given exaltation and fame to the school over which they presided. Rubens was buried in his family vault, in the church of St. James, of this city.

The chapel of his family is ornamented with several fine pictures, and among others his own likeness, with those of two of his wives.

The churches of Antwerp are numerous, and all contain pictures of the great masters, the total value of which, according to the prices which they command, would be enormous. But besides those which are the property of the churches, there is a large museum of paintings, and not less than twenty private collections of note, some of which are said to be very splendid.

We went to the church of St. Joseph, the court or outer enclosure of which contains sculptured representations of a host of prophets, evangelists, and apostles, all as large as life, stationed in different parts of the yard. The devout Catholic, on entering this court, may bow and kneel to which of the saints soever he may like the best; but he will probably finish his devotions at the image of the dead body of Christ, which is laid out in a rich and costly winding sheet, with other sumptuous decorations. This image is within a small enclosure, on the outside of which is a frame to kneel upon. A box is placed near it for the reception of money; and lest the zeal and devotion of the penitent should not be sufficient to stimulate him in the way of gold and silver, the only decisive proof of his sincerity, he has but to open his eyes and look on one side. There he may see his fate, in the flames of purgatory, and the agony of those who are exposed to its torments. These, as far as the skill of the sculptor and painter can go, are figured in all their horrors.

This exhibition really exceeds any thing I ever expected to see. It must be, I think, the strongest evidence of rank superstition which the Catholic world can produce. That a rusty nail from the cross, or a piece of the ship in which the Apostle Paul was wrecked, should be kneeled to and muttered over, with an honest confidence of good, in a full belief of the genuineness of the relic, I can conceive possible in the case of ignorant minds. But what a stretch of blind and awful superstition must be presupposed, before we can believe that any rational being can expect benefit, by bending before the clumsy work of its own creation. To add to the almost burlesque solemnity of this exhibition, there is another large image of our Saviour, erected on a high cross, with a stream of blood flowing from the wound, represented by a painted rod, bent into the proper curve, while the Virgin Mary is stationed below, and catching the blood in a basin held in her hand!

The museum, which we next visited, has a collection of about 120 pieces, many of which are from Rubens and Vandyke, and some in their best manner. There are several of Quintin Matsys, though not so many as I should have expected to see. His *Descent from the Cross* was among them, which has been considered by some as his best, but it did not afford me half the interest and pleasure which I derived from his picture of the *Misers*, in Windsor Castle. I was highly delighted, however, in seeing the original bee, on the thigh of one of the falling angels of *Franc Floris*, which obtained for this extraordinary man the prize of his ambition; the story of which had warmed

my fancy in early life. The insect has rather the appearance of a large horse fly, than of a bee, as it has been represented.

The Catholicism of the Netherlands, appears to me, if I may judge from its external indications, to be more decidedly of a superstitious character, than that of any other part of Europe that I have visited. The paintings of Rubens, Vandyke, and other great masters, are, with few comparative exceptions, taken from Scripture, and generally from the New Testament; and the subjects are so chosen, as to awaken in the vulgar mind, an awful sense of the *mysteries* of religion, and of course to increase their confidence in the pompous ceremonies, and the authoritative *dicta* of those who administer its rites. I have no doubt that the pencil of Peter Paul Rubens, has contributed to strengthen the doctrine of papal supremacy, and to lead the minds of hundreds and thousand, more deeply into the shade of bigotry and superstition. The pictorial art has, perhaps, been scarcely less influential than the typographical, in giving a tone to the public feeling, in this and other countries of Europe. How greatly is it to be desired, that this art, at once so refined and powerful, should be rendered a steady auxiliary to virtue. The painter, scarcely less than the author, renders himself responsible to the justice, the morality, and piety, of his country and the world. But if Rubens may be charged by Protestants, with having erred on the side of superstition, how much heavier is the accusation, which every real believer in the benevolent doctrines of our Saviour, in the forgiveness of enemies, and in the blessings conferred upon the peace-maker,

may prefer against those artists, who delight in representations of battles, who display in all the allurements of exquisite skill, the deadliest vengeance, and the most vindictive passions of human nature? That a better feeling is gaining ground on these subjects, I think there are evident indications; and I cannot but believe that of those living artists who have it most in their power to influence the public taste by the elegance and sublimity of their productions, the greater number is very much disposed to abandon the track of superstition on the one hand, and cruelty on the other, and to lend the charms of their pencils to the encouragement of virtue, and the moral improvement of mankind. The more the Sacred Volume is diffused and read, the more, I have no doubt, will the minds of the great mass of the people, be drawn from the lifeless formalities of religion, and warmed and influenced by the convictive evidences of its inward power,—its animating spiritualities. It is only, or at least chiefly, in those Christian countries, in which the Bible has been interdicted as a common book, by papal authority, that those rights and practices which are so degrading to true religion, and to the human mind, still find their adherents.

The person with whom I dined, is the active partner of my friend M. of Brussels, who has very much retired upon the profits of extensive and lucrative trade. Several Americans were invited to the dinner, one of whom was a New England captain, and who, I regret to say, manifested his nativity and education, or rather his want of proper education, by his remarkable faculty of *guessing*. This fault, I am persuaded, will be ranked among our colloquial peculi-

arities, for some time to come. The frequent use of the term, doubtless arises, in a great degree, from the want of a convenient and appropriate substitute.

We had a sumptuous dinner, and very genteelly served. The practice of smoking appears to be almost universal in the Low Countries. The person with whom I dined, obligingly conducted me in the evening, to a place I had wished to see, a genuine Dutch *estaminet*, or smoking house; of which there are great numbers in all the considerable towns in the Netherlands and Holland. This was one of a superior order. As far as tobacco smoke would admit, it was a very neatly conducted place of entertainment. The rooms were large, and handsomely furnished. One of them was appropriated to reading, and well provided with newspapers and journals, foreign and domestic. The other rooms were equipped with tables and recesses, for the convenience of talking, smoking, and drinking beer. This *estaminet* was resorted to by the young nobility, of whom there are great numbers in Antwerp. On particular occasions, these gentry maintain a reserve towards other classes of society. But in common, they live with their neighbours on social and easy terms. Some of them were present this evening at the *estaminet*. We went from this place to another institution, called the "*céracle*," where papers, journals, and pamphlets, are kept in greater variety. It is intended as a more literary rendezvous than the last; but the pabulum of letters is found to be an inadequate stimulus, and accordingly a good kitchen and refectory are added to the concern, by the combined operation of which,

with excellent fires in winter, a lively attendance of the “*céracle*” is secured.

23d. I could not learn, from the very respectable merchant, with whom I dined yesterday, that there was any scientific institution, or any professor of science, in the city of Antwerp. He took me, however, last evening, to the house of the surgeon that attends his family, to make the inquiry. He was not at home, but we left a written message. I went again this morning, and was received by Dr. Sommé, with great kindness. He is surgeon in chief to the hospital of the city, and holds the professorship of philosophy and surgery, in a school attached to that establishment. He conducted me, before breakfast, through the various rooms of the hospital, and its appendages. It contains 300 beds, all of which are occupied by patients. They have no curtains. The floors are of marble. The surgical patients, or rather the wounded, are kept in separate wards. A good laboratory, and pharmacy, are attached to the hospital. There is, likewise, a convenient theatre, or lecture room, and a pretty collection of philosophical apparatus, but no lectures are at present delivered. A small botanic garden, belongs also to this concern. It has been arranged, by professor Sommé, on the Linnean system, in rather a singular mode. Commencing in the middle, a wide bed winds round the centre of the garden, in a spiral direction, like the convolutions of a snail shell, until it fills the capacity of the garden. Different portions of this bed, are allotted to each of the Linnean classes; the first class, begins in the centre, or commencement, and the rest follow in succession,

to the last. The garden is, of course, as systematic and artificial, as the work of Linneus itself. A better method of studying the sexual system, could not, I imagine, be devised. In another garden, plants are cultivated, which could not well be introduced into the spiral bed. There is a hospital for the insane, in Antwerp, but I was told it was not in very good condition.

I left Dr. Sommé, after breakfast, with an injunction to call again, and take an early dinner, as I had determined to leave Antwerp, at two o'clock. He keeps house with three of his daughters, their mother being deceased. He is a person of much science and information, and like other European philosophers, he takes a lively interest in the progress and welfare of the United States. The general condition of education, in Antwerp, he described to me as very low. The great mass of the people are regardless of learning, a state of things which is sanctioned, if not directly encouraged, by many, if not most of the Catholic priests.

I left Antwerp, at a quarter past two, in the diligence, for Amsterdam. We cleared the city, by passing through a double circumvallation, of amazing thickness and strength. As we crossed the last bridge, I observed upon the walls of the outer battlement, the the following inscription, in large characters.

DOMINVS est CVSTOS VRBIS.

To me, I confess, this language appears strange and inconsistent. After taking the defence of the city into their own hands, and wasting their strength and treasure in erecting outward bulwarks, to acknow-

ledge, on the very face of these elaborate works, that the keeping of the city belongs to God. What is this but to utter one language with their tongues, and another by their deeds ?

The country through which we passed, was, on the whole, very level. The villages were extremely clean, and the road was paved in the middle. There was a greater portion of waste land on this route, consisting of sandy barrens, than I have before met with. Pine is the prevailing timber. We reached Breda, about nine in the evening, and stopped at the "Couronne," an inn of indifferent accommodations. The town itself, as we entered it, and passed through the streets, did not present so agreeable and comfortable an aspect, as either Brussels or Antwerp. The Dutch was the only language spoken at the inn, except by two daughters of the landlord, who conversed with us in French, and were much disposed to be obliging, as far as their means extended. Two sous were demanded of each of us, on our arrival, for the maintenance of the poor of the town ; the first instance, I recollect to have met with, of this sort of contribution. The population of Breda, is about 11,000. It is situated on the rivers Iser and Merck.

24th. After a hasty cup of coffee, we set off at five, in a clear, and very cold morning. From the extraordinary refraction of the atmosphere, the sun assumed at rising, a figure, more decidedly elliptical, than I have ever before noticed. The contrast in the appearance of the towns and villages of Holland, and those of France, is scarcely less striking, than that which is observable in the manners of the people one meets with in the stage ; and it is as much in favour

of French politeness, as of Dutch cleanliness. There was a stupid and surly indifference to each other's comfort, in the diligence, this morning, which is the the more unpleasant to me, from its novelty.

We were stopped at a small river, this morning, and detained three hours, on account of the ice. The scow, in which the carriage is usually ferried over, had been completely frozen up, near the shore; and though the arrival of the stage was expected, as a matter of course, little or no effort had been made to cut the boat loose, until our arrival; and then, the grave and heavy motion of the labourers, and their slow and setentious consultations, intermingled with clouds of smoke, from enormous pipes, rendered the scene quite ludicrous, though not a little trying to the patience of one who was anxious to get rapidly forward. A dozen men, were three hours in accomplishing, what half the number of my countrymen, as I verily thought, would have easily effected in less than one hour.

On reaching the river Waal, or Maas, a very broad stream, forming one of the branches of the Rhine, we encountered some difficulty in crossing, on account of the floating ice. We landed about a mile below Gorcum, and walked up the bank of the river to the town. The citizens were amusing themselves in skating on the meadows and ponds in the vicinity; and for the first time in my life, I saw this exercise performed by women. Their motions were very graceful, and evinced surprising dexterity. Gorcum is a neat, pleasant town, built of red bricks. Population, 5000. It was in a fortress near this town that

the celebrated Grotius was confined, and in which he wrote his most admired and important works. The house is still shown in Gorcum, in which he took refuge, after being delivered from prison by the ingenuity and extraordinary address of his wife. She put him into a chest, fastened him up, and having secured the fidelity of a servant, she sent the chest away, pretending it was full of books, secretly taken from her husband's collection, lest he should kill himself by study, feigning, in the mean time, that he was ill in bed. The chest was taken in a boat to Gorcum and deposited in the house of a friend. Thus safely freed from prison, Grotius assumed the dress and business of a mason, and with his rule and trowel got into a boat, went to Antwerp, and thence retired to France. His wife was detained some time in prison; but at length, the judges, ashamed of inflicting punishment on a woman for an affectionate attachment to her husband, set her at liberty.

The appearance of the country, roads, and towns in Holland, affords so strong a contrast with the scenery of Switzerland and France, the effect upon the mind of a stranger is almost like that of enchantment. He finds himself in a new and totally different region, and so strongly is he impressed with the extraordinary evidences of industry, skill, and neatness which exist all around him, the monotony of the general level does not offend him. We reached the river Leck in the evening, and had some difficulty in crossing, on account of the great masses of floating ice. It was dark when we entered the village of Vreeswyck, on the opposite shore; and after warm-

ing ourselves at an inn, we continued our route, and arrived at Utrecht about ten. The congealed frost has been so dense on the grass, I have no doubt that a sleigh would have run very smoothly and easily over it.

25th. I had just time, prior to our departure for Amsterdam, to take a hasty survey of the city. Utrecht has a population of nearly 35,000, and such was its perfect cleanliness, that I drew the inference, that a single cart load of dirt could not have been collected by scraping every street in it. Utrecht is on the Rhine, but not upon its principal branch. It is intersected also by canals. The tower of the great cathedral has one peculiarity. It is entirely detached from the church, and is built of brick. It is 446 feet in height. This town is famous for its ancient university. The pen by which the treaty of peace was signed, called the peace of Utrecht, in 1713, is still preserved in the castle here; but these, with other curiosities, I could not stop to examine.

We set off at half past eight, in a light coach with two horses, and but three passengers besides myself. One of these was a young man who had been my companion from Brussels. He resided in Amsterdam, and had travelled much on the continent of Europe. He spoke both Dutch and French fluently, and had very politely assisted me as an interpreter whenever he could be of service. The other two were a newly married young couple, who lived in Utrecht, and were going this morning to pay a Christmas visit to her parents in Amsterdam. As I had occupied a hind seat during my journey from Antwerp, I considered myself entitled to it as far as my

passage had been paid, viz. to Amsterdam. In refusing, however, to give it up to the exclusive use of the young married pair, I incurred the displeasure of the innkeeper to whom the carriage belonged, and who charged me roundly with great incivility. The lady, too, refused to place herself beside me, preferring to ride backwards with her husband on the front seat. This set off, was, of course, very inauspicious with respect to the social pleasure of our Christmas ride. Finding that they both spoke French, I took an early occasion to state to them, that being a perfect stranger in Holland, and highly pleased with the country as far as I had observed it, I was particularly desirous on our approach to Amsterdam, to have a favourable chance of continuing my observations, which I should not possess on the other seat. That in other countries, the first occupant of a seat in the diligence, was entitled to its possession to the end of the journey, and that I was not aware that the rules in Holland were different. That, nevertheless, if they still thought it my duty to relinquish the seat, it was at their service, for that I wished by no means to give any offence to them personally. This explanation, with a few subsequent civilities, entirely conciliated their good will. After the first stopping place, the young *frauw* took her seat beside me, and we were all as easy and social as was any way compatible with *Dutch* taciturnity.*

* In France the regulation of seats is more precise than it is either in England or America. The inside seats of the diligence are counted from one to six, and each passenger has his place assigned him on entering his name. If any dispute arise, the conductor soon settles it by a reference to the numbers. He makes no distinction between men and women.

The road from Utrecht to Amsterdam lies by the side of a large canal, the water of which, in many places, is several feet higher than the level of the adjacent farms and gardens. Not only the welfare, but the safety of the inhabitants, depends, of course, on the perfection of the embankments. The country on this side was a succession of gardens and rural seats. We passed through several villages, but none of them large. The houses are all either of brick or stone, and every thing around them evinces the most careful attention to order and neatness. The barns, fences, gates, &c. are painted of different colours, but generally of a brownish hue. We stopped several times to allow the horses to feed, and the coachman to take his beer, and replenish his pipe; and we found the inns to correspond with the general appearance, in their comparative cleanliness and comfort. At one village, the inhabitants and people adjacent, were assembling at the church. They were chiefly Catholics. We stopped here a considerable time, walked through the village, and looked into their place of worship. It was well filled with a sedate and grave looking audience. The costume of the peasantry, as they collected from neighbouring places, was highly characteristic. The women wore very large straw bonnets, and over their shoulders cloaks of chintz or calico, with broad and glaring figures. Their petticoats extended about half-way down the leg, showing the plain, strong texture of their stockings, while their feet were provided either with leather shoes, fastened with enormous buckles, or with wooden shoes, much larger and more clumsy than those in the south of France. The men had cocked hats

and coats with long and broad waists. The boys were dressed in breeches, like their fathers, and wore also large buckles in their shoes.

The road was intersected by numerous canals, which were frozen nearly solid. I remarked that almost every villa or country seat on this populous route, had a name which was neatly painted in very conspicuous characters on the gate or fence, or in some other prominent situation.

On entering Amsterdam, we crossed the river Amstel, which resembles a wide canal. It was frozen, except a course in the middle which had been broken for the boats. This large city presented, as we drove through it, the same cleanly appearance as the other towns I have noticed. The streets were very much deserted, and no work was doing; for the Dutch are attentive to their religious ordinances, and Christmas is a holiday of particular observance. In passing through the Jews' quarter I was struck with the great number of ragged and miserable looking objects. The numerous bridges we had to cross was another great peculiarity. The coach conveyed our married pair to the door of her parents. With lively joy she exclaimed, in good Dutch, "Dere is muder;" and flew into her arms with strong mutual affection. I was recommended by *Mojana*, my other fellow-passenger, to the "Arms of Amsterdam," where I obtained an excellent room, and found a *table d'hôte* of a superior kind. It was attended by numerous guests, most of whom were strangers from different parts of Europe. Provided with every convenience for writing, which is a provision in nearly all the good inns I have been at on the continent, I

spent the evening in my chamber before an excellent fire of turf. This substance is prepared in pieces rather larger than a common brick. It is slow in kindling, but, when ignited, affords a fine glowing fire, and emits much heat. It is the principal fuel of the city, and forms one of the substrata on which Amsterdam is built. Coal is also used, but it is probably confined to the more wealthy citizens.

LETTER XXIV.

Leyden, 12th month, (Dec.) 29, 1818.

MY DEAR *****,

ON the morning of the 26th I procured an intelligent *garçon*, a respectable looking man, who spoke Dutch and French, and who was well acquainted with the city, to escort me through some of the most interesting places, and to the houses of two or three persons for whom I had letters. But I was informed, that as this was the intervening day between Christmas and the first day of the week, (Sunday) it would also be kept as a holiday, that very little business would be done, and that the public institutions would probably be shut.

Excepting some of the public edifices, Amsterdam is built almost entirely of brick. It is more extensively intersected by canals than any city in Europe, whose situation is not completely insular. These canals all communicate with each other, and with the river Amstel on the south, and the gulf of Y, on the

north. Within the enclosure of the city are 280 bridges, some of stone and others of wood ; and 90 islands, formed by the intersection of the canals. There is generally a space between the houses and the canals sufficient for carriages conveniently to pass each other ; and in some of the wider streets, these spaces are adorned with large trees. The houses are, in general, plain, though some of them aspire to elegance. The great attention paid to the cleanliness of the streets and pavements, and the care with which the exterior furniture and ornaments about the doors and windows are kept bright, are alone sufficient to give an air of neatness and beauty to a city. The windows, in many of the best houses, are of plate glass, which adds much to the rich appearance of the front. The city is supplied with fresh water, only from the clouds and from distant places. It is brought in boats from the river Vecht, two leagues from the city. From these boats it is transferred to floating reservoirs in the canals, and from them it is conveyed to private cisterns. It is not obtained without considerable cost, especially in a time of drought, and when the water communications are shut by ice. But the Hollanders are not accustomed to yield, even to the assaults of the elements, as long as human ingenuity and industry can find any resource. When the canals freeze, they employ a heavy machine of wood, armed with iron spikes, to which they occasionally attach, it is said, as many as eighty horses. This machine is called the *Ysbrekker*.

The soft and unstable nature of the strata on which the city rests, adds greatly to the expense and trouble of erecting houses. Indeed the triumph of art and

industry over the most appalling natural obstacles, must excite the astonishment of every stranger in Holland. Not a house can be built of brick of any considerable size, without first driving to a great depth in the earth, piles of wood, like the mast of a vessel, forty or fifty, and sometimes sixty feet in length. These are all brought to a level by the pile driver, and then covered by thick and strong wooden planks, which are spiked down to the tops of the piles. On this floor the mason lays his foundation. One hundred of these piles are requisite to the safety of a moderate house ; and some idea may be formed of the immense labour which has been expended in the very basis of this large city, when the fact is stated that the palace, the largest building in the town, stands upon 13,695 of these masts of wood. One of the hospitals required 1432. As the canals receive all the wash and filth of the city, it is obvious that they would become in summer very offensive, were not the water in constant circulation. The atmosphere is extremely damp and foggy, a circumstance which has given rise to the practices of smoking tobacco and drinking gin. The efficacy of such preservatives of health, may well be doubted. But, notwithstanding such temptations to intemperance, drunkenness does not appear to be a very prevalent vice.

Two of the persons, on whom I called with letters, were gone to church. The third I found at home. The servant who came to the door, replied to our question whether her master was within, rather inadvertently, as it afterwards appeared, in the affirmative. We waited a long time, before she returned to invite us in. Her countenance was much depressed, and

the guide told me she had had a severe scolding. We were taken into a front room, and sat a long time in the cold. At length the young gentleman made his appearance, with a reserved and formal air; but on receiving and reading my letter, his manner softened into kindness; he made many apologies for the delay, and invited me into a back room, where was an excellent fire. He immediately offered to go with me, and to devote the day in visiting such places as would be most interesting to a stranger. The change in her master's countenance had a happy effect upon the maid. Her sadness gave place to pleasure, and while he was gone to change his coat, she came smiling to me and whispered something in my ear, which, as it was in Dutch, I understood not a word,—but learned from the guide, that it was to inform me, she had liked to have been involved in trouble for the course she had taken. The room into which I was last invited was characteristic of Dutch nicety and comfort. The floor was covered with two, if not three carpets; one of them, a rich Brussels. The door, as well as windows, was curtained; leather was nailed to the floor around the hearth, and on the rug were two pieces of cork, about a foot square, to rest the feet upon. The other furniture was in a corresponding style.

We endeavoured in vain to gain admission to one of the principal scientific institutions of the city. It was closed on account of the festival, and their rules are punctiliously adhered to. We went to the palace, but the principal officer had gone to church. A literary institution, or reading room, was the next object of our inquiry; and here we were admitted without

difficulty. It occupies one or two large and handsome apartments, and is supported by 150 subscribers, at \$12 each, per annum. Besides a good and well selected library, I found on the tables, most of the popular literary journals of France, England, and Scotland. The Edinburgh and Quarterly Reviews, Edinburgh Magazine, British Review, and Annales de Chimie, were among the number. A librarian and a servant are also supported by the funds of the institution.

On a second application at the palace we obtained admission, and were politely conducted over it. The building now called the palace, was formerly the Hotel de Ville, in which were accommodated the various tribunals and public officers of the city. The late king, Louis Bonaparte, having resolved to make Amsterdam the seat of government, that he might more effectually lend his protection to commerce, chose this edifice for the royal residence, and in April, 1808, it was prepared and furnished for his reception. When the government was abandoned by Louis, and Holland became united to France, Napoleon deigned to receive this edifice among the number of his imperial palaces, and in 1811 it was occupied by him and Maria Louisa during their visit to the *Dutch departments* of their *Great Empire*. But, *tempora mutantur*. It is now one of the palaces of King William; and the furniture remains nearly as it was left by Louis. It is principally of French manufacture, and is of the first rate elegance.

The palace stands alone, though in the midst of the city. It is in the centre of what is called the Dam. It is 232 feet long, and 222 wide. It has three stories,

with a front elevation of 116 feet. The steeple in the centre rises 67 feet higher. The front presents a beautiful bas-relief in marble, of the city of Amsterdam, represented by the figure of a woman wearing an imperial crown, and holding an olive branch in her right hand. She is seated on a car drawn by two lions, and is accompanied by Neptune in his shell, drawn by two sea unicorns, and surrounded by naiades and tritons, some offering him laurels and fruits, and others sounding the conch, to announce the fame of this great commercial city. Three colossal figures in bronze, each twelve feet high, are posited on the frontal pediment, as the representatives of Peace, Prudence, and Justice, all with their usual attributes. The other façade is finished in a similar style of sculptured ornament, all showing the dignity and potency of commerce. The principal front is reserved for the entrance of the royal family.

The colour of the furniture, drapery, tapestry, &c. varies in different rooms, but is uniform in the same room. Green, blue, yellow, and flesh colour, are prevailing shades. The silken tapestry was made at Lyons. I observed that the queen's bed had a child's crib placed beside it, an agreeable evidence of maternal care. Some of the rooms of this palace are truly splendid, and contain many fine pictures. The hall of the throne is magnificently furnished. The throne is surmounted with a purple canopy, the hanging and the drapery being deep scarlet. Over the fire-place, is a picture of Moses descending from Mount Sinai with the two tables of stone. The imperial hall, as it was formerly called, alias, the ball room, is 120 feet long, about 60 wide, and 100 in

height. The ceiling, which is carved, is the highest I have ever seen. We ascended to the belfry. It contains, as I was informed, 60 bells. Thirty-seven of them perform a chime every hour, which is heard over the city, and a number of them at each of the quarters. Another set is played three times a week, by a blind musician, the tune being produced by hand, upon keys, like a piano. This great edifice was commenced in 1648, and certainly affords a strong evidence of the wealth and extraordinary industry of this people. My very intelligent companion informed me, that King Louis was very popular when he first came to Amsterdam, from the spirited manner in which he entered into the commercial views of the inhabitants; but it was discovered, by the extent of the royal exactions, upon the entries and clearances of ships, that the filling of his own private coffers, came fully within his views of patriotism. His popularity, of course, rapidly declined; but before his abdication took place, he had become extremely rich. Totally different from his brother, he seems to have been, either by nature or habit, so thoroughly conformed to the Dutch character, as to prefer a quiet, *wealthy* retreat, to the bustle and perplexity of government.

On leaving the palace we stopped at an estaminet, and took a cup of chocolate, in a cloud of tobacco smoke. We passed also through a church, a very large building, which had formerly been a riding-school. On every seat lay a large quarto Bible, strongly bound, and furnished with metallic clasps. There was no fire-place or stove in it, but a great number of earthen cups were deposited in the room, to be

filled with live coals, and used by each person as occasion required. The principal object in our walk to the borders of the town, was to witness the diversion of skating. This, when the weather and ice are favourable, is a very fashionable amusement with both sexes. Numerous companies were assembled this afternoon on the ice, and performed their exercises in fine style. The females, many of whom appeared to belong to the more respectable classes of society, were neatly dressed, and generally in white; which, contrasted with their highly florid complexions, produced an effect which rendered the scene uncommonly lively and imposing. Their motions were singularly graceful. Each female was attended by a man; and a favourite mode of skating is, to move together by simultaneous strokes, the woman with her right hand on the left shoulder of the man, and he with his left hand on her right shoulder. It is doubtful whether any kind of popular diversion in which both sexes unite, is calculated to produce so interesting a spectacle as this; and, barring the unpleasant effect of accidents, it has health, and, in this country, utility, to recommend it.

27th. The Sabbath appears to be carefully observed in this city. The shops are all shut, and the streets are quiet. In the course of the morning I went into the French Protestant church. The audience was numerous, and from the number of well dressed men with large cocked hats, I should judge that this congregation comprehended many wealthy and respectable citizens. An elderly clergyman officiated, but his articulation was so indistinct I could understand but little of the sermon. The house was

large; the galleries were more spacious than any I have ever seen; but notwithstanding the music and singing there were several of the audience who yielded to the superior potency of Morpheus. There is a younger preacher, I was told, that keeps them fully awake; and is so popular and powerful as to attract the most crowded audiences, and of the most elevated classes of the city. This church had no fire in it, except what was contained in the earthen cups with which almost every person was supplied.

Agreeably to a statistical account of the city, with which my young friend has supplied me, the state of religion, as it regards the number of professions in Amsterdam, is as follows,

11 Reformed churches, containing 95,000 members		
2 French Reformed	3,000	do.
1 English Presbyterian	340	do.
1 English Episcopal	30	do.
1 Reformed Remonstrant	500	do.
3 Lutheran	32,000	do.
2 Anabaptists	2,000	do.
1 Moravian	60	do.
16 Roman Catholic	44,000	do.
3 Jansenist	520	do.
1 Armenian	9	do.
1 Greek	21	do.
1 Synagogue of Portuguese Jews	2,800	do.
2 Synagogues of German Jews	19,860	do.
1 Ditto New congregation	450	do.

The fogs in Holland, at this time of year especially, are exceedingly frequent, and are often the occasion of serious accidents. In walking from the river this afternoon, we were very suddenly enveloped with

a mist, which soon increased to so dense a fog as to render further exposure to it very unsafe, on account of the canals. About a week ago the city was darkened with a fog, which was so thick that at least twenty-five persons lost their lives by falling into the water. It continued from half past six till nine o'clock. Such an extensive calamity as this, however, is unusual.

28th. At ten, my very intelligent and punctual friend, called for the purpose of escorting me to such institutions, as we were excluded from last week, on account of the holidays. We went first to the botanic garden. The entrance is between two square stone pillars, which, in summer, are surmounted by vases containing aloes. The conservatory is spacious, and in excellent order, some of the plants appearing to me larger and finer, than any I have elsewhere seen. The garden includes three acres, and contains about 4000 species. They are arranged in the ground, according to the Linnean system. Within the walls is an orangery, 200 feet long; a cabinet of natural history, and a botanical library. It is more than one hundred years, since this garden was first established, and it certainly does great credit to the taste of the citizens. It is open to genteel people, as an amusing and instructive walk. A small sum is paid at the gate for admission, at least by strangers.

Our next visit was to the Werkhuis, (workhouse,) situated upon the Weesperveld. This is a large edifice, of plain but handsome construction. The main building is 360 feet long, 180 wide, and three stories high. The front rooms are appropriated to the use of the managers. In two of them, were two remarkably fine pictures by Rembrandt; one of which con-

tained portraits of the then governors of the institution; and the other, the portraits of the governesses. They are represented in each, as being in consultation, relative to the concerns of the house. The true spirit of the Dutch character, is exhibited in the attitudes and the colouring of these portraits, with wonderful fidelity and effect. The *werkhuis*, is an establishment for the relief of the poor; an asylum for those who are really destitute of the means of support. It accommodates 500 women, and 250 men. Its concerns are under the control of four directors, and four directresses, styled regents, who meet in consultation together. Its immediate management is confided to six male, and five female superintendents, who are called fathers and mothers. They must all be unmarried. If their acquaintanceship should chance to ripen into matrimonial inclination, they must leave their station in the *werkhuis*. The first pauper we met was occupied with the scrubbing brush, and every part of the house showed, that that instrument was not neglected. The paupers are admitted at a particular door only, just within which, is an apartment, containing a bath, brushes, soap, towels, &c. To this apartment, the supplicant for charity is first introduced, and, by a thorough ablution, and change of dress, is prepared for admittance to the family. The principles of true and genuine charity, appeared to me to be better understood and practised here, than in any institution I have ever seen. The paupers are subjected to labour. Their dress is very coarse, for the clothes they bring with them are laid aside, on their admission, and they are equipped in the uniform of the house. When they leave it, their own clothes

are returned to them. Their food is extremely plain and cheap, consisting of coarse rye bread, beer, buttermilk, and vegetables. Twice a week, only, they are indulged with beef soup. Their beds are equally simple; the frame is a wooden trough, or box, wide enough to hold the body, without much room to spare. The women all sleep in one apartment, an arrangement which certainly economizes space. Their employments are spinning, weaving, and knitting. The children are collected into groups in the rooms, and taught to spell and read, by some of the paupers themselves. They appeared very much disposed to complain of their hard fare, but I remarked that they very generally looked well. They receive nothing for their work, but their victuals, lodging, and clothing. It is evident, that thus treated, persons of this description, will remain no longer in such an institution, than they are compelled to do, by actual necessity. The *werkhuis*, therefore, is exempt from the serious objections, which lie against the more luxurious establishments, so common in other countries; viz. that they foster idleness, and tend to lessen that individual energy and enterprize, which are so essential to the prosperity of every community. The kitchen of this house displayed the greatest neatness. In one apartment we were shown a service of pewter, which had been in use 200 years, and still appeared almost as good as new. One entire room, of no trifling dimensions, was appropriated to buttermilk and sourcrout. In front of the main building, is a wall fifteen feet high: over the principal entrance is a sculptured lion, holding the escutcheon of the arms of the city; and beneath is a bas relief representation, of a woman giving employ-

ment to a crowd of people, of low condition. An inscription, in Dutch verse, implies the following:—“If I am severe, in obliging you to do good, it gives me pleasure to witness your reformation.” I could not leave the workhouse of Amsterdam, without acknowledging the excellence of its regulations, their wise adaptation to the principles of human nature, and the evident benefit which results to such establishments, by the association of female discretion, and activity, both in its immediate government, and its general direction.

From this place we went to a hospital, for the support of aged people, of the reformed religion, situated on the quay of the Amstel. This is also an extensive charity. There were present in the house, 480 women, and 127 men. About 10,000 persons were here cherished, during the first century after its erection. The refectory is 123 feet in length, and the infirmary is of the same extent. In the rear is a large garden. Four of these aged people occupy one room, which is very plainly furnished. They have no fire, except what they can preserve in earthen cups. In the kitchen, I observed large kettles of boiling cabbage, and an immense boiler of buttermilk, thickened with barley. This institution is maintained by a society, called the *Diaconia*. Upon the whole, there was, I thought, rather too great a destitution of those things which are requisite to the comforts of old age. But in the economy of the house, there is, doubtless, an eye to the prevention, on the part of the poorer classes, of that indifference to their own welfare, which would naturally increase the number of applicants, at the doors of such an asylum.

We applied, on leaving this house, for admission to the orphan asylum, but being a little past the hour of receiving visitors, we were resolutely refused. The pertinacity of a Dutch porter in adhering to his rules, is, I find, not easily to be overcome. We hastened therefore to a scientific institution, which I was particularly desirous to see. It belongs to a society called the "*Felix Meritis*;" and the building, which is a very handsome structure of stone, bears that device, in large golden letters on its frieze. Here, also, we were half an hour past the time of admission. But on inquiring for the secretary, and urging my claims as a stranger who could not remain another day, he politely invited us in, and conducted us through the several apartments of the institution. It was founded in 1787. It has four stories. In the circle of Dutch science, music holds a conspicuous place; and accordingly the first considerable apartment we were led into, was a concert room. It is constructed on principles the most favourably adapted to the diffusion of sound. Its form is elliptical, the longest diameter being 70 feet, and the shorter or conjugate 47. The height is 35 feet. The orchestra is meant to accommodate 80 musicians! The lecture room is semicircular, and very neatly arranged, and lectures are delivered in it on different branches of science. One room of considerable size is fitted for a drawing school, in which the pupils are taught to copy from life. It is accordingly kept warm by flues. Prizes are adjudged to those who make the greatest proficiency in drawing, and to excite the emulation of the pupils in this art, some of the best performances are handsomely displayed in a private room, with the names

of those that have been honoured with prizes. In one apartment is a collection of casts of the most celebrated and admired pieces of statuary.

In the third story is a good observatory, supplied with an astronomical clock, telescopes, &c. The platform on the top of the building, surrounded by a parapet, overlooks the city, and commands an extensive horizon. From such an elevation, the appearance of this country is very peculiar; a country of cities, villages, and gardens, in the midst of water. The lake of Haerlem and the Zuyder Zee are both within the perspective; and so numerous are the bays and canals, as to induce the belief, that three-fourths of the whole surface is in a state of perpetual submersion. The apparatus room of the "*Felix Meritis*," is a circular apartment, in which is a fine collection of philosophical instruments. The building contains, likewise, a cabinet of curiosities and paintings, and a chemical laboratory. This institution, supported by a private association, in the midst of a place devoted to commerce, must be considered as furnishing an agreeable evidence of the good sense and fine taste of the upper classes of the city. We went from the "*Felix Meritis*," to a museum of paintings, consisting of five rooms nearly filled; in which are some superior productions, particularly four large pictures by Rembrandt, and some of Vanderhelst.

Intending to leave Amsterdam in the morning, I parted with my amiable and obliging friend R. whose kind and steady attentions to my convenience during two days, I shall retain in pleasing recollection. He informed me, that during the imperial sway of Napoleon, his father had engaged to give 500 guilders for

his passage to England, that he might escape the conscription; but his mother, on account of the great risque of the passage during the war, interposed and prevented his going. He was afterwards actually drawn; and his father, in order to clear him, paid 3000 guilders for a substitute.

The number of charitable institutions in this city, which the shortness of my stay forbade me to see, is very considerable. Besides four distinct orphan asylums, erected at different times, and for different classes, there is a foundling hospital which accommodates more than 1800 children of both sexes, one, or both of whose parents are either dead, absent, in a hospital, or prison, or in other respects disabled from taking care of their offspring. The building is 383 feet in length. The children are instructed in learning, taught to work, and at proper ages they are provided with suitable trades, or other service. An admirable order is said to prevail in this institution. It is under the direction of sixteen regents, half of whom are females. There are also eight or ten hospitals for the sick and infirm, in some of which the admissions are indiscriminate, and in others confined to particular classes. Several of these establishments have been founded by benevolent individuals, and some of them by distinct sects or communities. Some, owe their origin to those peculiar views of the nature of charitable obligation, which prevailed before the Lutheran reformation, and which are still operative in most Catholic countries. But in addition to all these, there are more than a score of distinct minor establishments, called foundations, erected and supported by the munificence of individuals, generally

of the reformed religion. They each accommodate from twenty to one hundred or more indigent objects; and are doubtless managed with that discretion, which appears, evidently, to characterize the Dutch institutions

The population of Amsterdam exceeds 200,000; but in consequence of the embarrassments produced by the continental system of Bonaparte, and the continued depression of commerce, the number of inhabitants of this city, has undergone a very considerable diminution. In 1780 it exceeded 240,000. About one-tenth of the population are Jews. They occupy a distinct quarter of the city, and have two large synagogues, and one of a smaller size.

There is an obvious formality and stiffness in the manners of the Dutch, especially in the middling classes, that I have not seen equalled in any other country. Two citizens of respectable appearance, will meet and accost each other by simply touching their hats, without taking the pipes from their mouths. Their words too, are much more sparingly dealt out. One does not hear in the coffee houses, in the streets, in public vehicles, or at a table d'hôte, that easy and sustained loquacity which marks the manners of the French, and in a less degree, those of England and America.

I shall reluctantly leave Amsterdam without visiting the large village of Brock, situated over a small bay on the north side of the city. This village with the neighbouring one of Saardam, is said to present the most remarkable example of uniform neatness, that the world can produce; and a more punctilious attention to cleanliness, internally and externally, than

is to be seen in any other part of Holland. Brock is inhabited chiefly by wealthy farmers, who live in affluence upon the income of their lands. Wagons and loaded carriages are not allowed to pass through the street, the pavement of which is kept in the best possible order; while the foot-walk, which is as clean as scrubbing brushes can well make it, is sanded and marked out into fanciful and ornamental figures. The doors and porches are burnished, and the trunks of the trees which grow before them, are polished by frequent scrubbing. To gain admission at the front door is a favour not to be expected, except by persons of some consequence, there being always a very decent back way, by which people on ordinary business may find access to the apartments, commonly used by the family; and if the shoes of a visiter happen to be a little soiled, a pair of slippers is presented him at the door, which he is to use as a substitute during his stay. The whole interior of the houses corresponds to the singular neatness of the outside.

Of the state of morals in Amsterdam, so far as an inference may be drawn from the appearance and manners of the populace, my conclusions are comparatively favourable. Yet, like other sea-port towns, it has its sinks of vice and debauchery. The quarter inhabited by the Jews, is obviously more corrupt and wretched than the other parts of the town.

The regular time of changing residence, and of renting houses for the year, is the first of May. This practice prevails in New-York, and was doubtless introduced by the Dutch, in the early settlement of that city.

The taste for science, and the diffusion of learning, are far more general than I had expected to find them, in a city founded so exclusively upon the profits of trade and fishing. The public regulations relative to education, are excellent. Provision is made for the gratuitous instruction of the poor, and no person is allowed to exercise the profession of a teacher, who has not been previously examined by a commission, and found duly qualified to discharge its functions. In no country of Europe, probably, has the importance of education been more distinctly recognised by public regulations, or greater public liberality manifested in its support. Long before the systems of Bell and Lancaster were thought of, the Dutch schools were organised upon a plan which combined economy of expense, with certainty and expedition in the process of teaching. A mild and rational system of government is superadded to good literary and moral instruction. The emulation of the pupils in the public schools, is stimulated by prizes, distributed twice a year; and when the pupil has attained the age of about fourteen, if his conduct and progress have been satisfactory, he receives an honorary certificate from the directors, and a present of four shirts and two pairs of stockings.

Boarding schools, in which are taught ancient and foreign languages and different branches of science, are said to be sufficiently numerous in Amsterdam. There is also a school for the blind, under excellent regulation. The pupils, I am informed, are taught to spell, read, and write their native tongue, to understand arithmetic and geography, and to perform the manual operations usually introduced in schools

of the blind. Music, of course, will not be omitted, in a country, where a concord of sounds is held in such general estimation.

29th. At nine A. M. I left Amsterdam, in a cabriolet, for Haerlem. The windmills are very numerous around the city, and of such various sizes and forms, and painted with so much taste as to add greatly to the singular and ornamental features of the perspective. Many of them are of very large size. The form of Amsterdam is nearly that of a semicircle, the straight side lying upon the gulf of Y. It is about nine miles and a half in circumference. On the circular side it is surrounded by a wide canal, and with ramparts and bastions faced with brick. By means of its sluices, the whole adjacent country can be laid under water.

Haerlem is about nine miles from Amsterdam. On arriving, I immediately inquired for a guide, and was referred to a French family, who lived near the inn. A boy of about thirteen offered himself as my conductor, and a more agreeable and intelligent *cicerone* I have scarcely ever found. I walked into the great church, but had no opportunity of hearing the sound of the most celebrated organ in the world, which displayed its huge columns before me. It is considered, I believe, as the most extraordinary instrument of the kind, for the depth and strength of its tone, that has ever been made. It is said that the celebrated Handel once visited Haerlem, and, without the knowledge of the organist, being admitted to the instrument, he commenced, with the most surprising effect, an air which the other, though a skilful musician, had pronounced to be utterly imprac-

licable by one person. The organist came in during the performance, and, struck with astonishment, declared that if it was a human being it must be Handel. Eager to ascertain in what manner the note had been struck, which he had deemed impossible, he learned with surprise and pleasure that Handel, in addition to the use of all his fingers, occasionally applied his nose to the keys, and thus effected more than what mere hands alone could ever accomplish.

There is a good deal of majesty of appearance about the building, although the simplicity of Protestant edifices will necessarily fail to impress the eye with the same wonder that it receives from the vast and elaborate decorations of Catholic churches.

I directed my guide to conduct me to the Teylerian Museum, an establishment which makes some figure in the history of science. As it was past the hour, I could not be admitted; but unwilling to lose the opportunity, I inquired for the curator, and was referred to his house in another part of the town. Thither I went, and was admitted into a front room, and, after waiting a considerable time, an elderly man came in with the air and dress of a philosopher who had just been engaged in his laboratory. I was highly pleased to find, upon a mutual explanation, that it was Van Marum himself, a name long associated with the scientific reputation of this town. He told me that it was past the hour for visiting the museum: but if I would wait till he changed his dress, he would gladly take me to see it; and in the mean time invited me to amuse myself with looking at a small collection of his own. A servant escorted me up stairs, where, to my surprise, I found an exceedingly neat and va-

luable museum. It occupies five or six chambers, and comprehends a fine collection of natural history, especially of the animal kingdom, all in excellent preservation. In ornithology it is exceedingly valuable, particularly in the number, variety, and preservation of the eggs it contains: it is rich also in conchology. In an adjoining apartment, this philosopher has a laboratory, supplied with the most useful instruments of physical research. The whole collection reflects great credit on his industry and taste. He keeps a book in which visitors are requested to insert their names.

The Teylerian Museum is a building of moderate size. The collection consists, chiefly, of philosophical instruments, minerals, and books. They are arranged in the nicest manner in one oval room; the instruments in glass cases along the walls, and the minerals under cover on tables placed on an elevated platform in the centre. The collection of minerals is not very extensive, but the specimens are mostly of large size and great beauty. The library is enclosed in cases like the apparatus, opening into a gallery which is accessible by a flight of stairs in another apartment. The instruments are kept in good order. The large electrical machine, which, in the hands of Van Marum, has done so much towards the advancement of electricity, is also in this room. It consists, as is well known, of two plates, each five feet in diameter, which revolve together against cushions. It was cased in a wooden frame, so that I did not see the plates. They were probably, as I concluded, either broken or injured. The battery contained 550 square feet of surface. This has been, I believe,

the most powerful electrical machine ever erected. A magnet in this collection sustains a weight of 200lbs. The room is lighted from the roof. A laboratory is attached to the museum, consisting of two apartments, in which are most of the instruments requisite to a course of chemical lectures. This museum is intrinsically very valuable, but under present circumstances, of no great practical utility. It was left by a person of the name of Teyler, who, without much learning, but possessing a taste for experimental science, was desirous of promoting a relish for philosophical investigation among his fellow citizens. It is to be feared that after the death of Van Marum it will fall into neglect.

I parted with this philosopher, under a mutual wish, that between our respective countries and cities, there might be a more frequent intercourse in relation to the discoveries and fruits of science. The academy of sciences in this town, has published several volumes of transactions.

Haerlem is a very neat and handsome town. In an open area, in its centre, is a marble statue of Laurent John Koster, who is regarded in Holland as the inventor of printing. The statue is of full size, and is erected in front of his own house. A book is also preserved, which is reported to be the first that ever was printed. There appears, however, much reason to doubt the correctness of assigning the honour of this great invention to the city of Haerlem. Nevertheless, if the invention of Koster was independent of that of any other person, or if it contributed essentially to the perfection of a process, so vastly important to mankind, he better deserves the honour of

a statue, than hundreds of others upon whom it has been bestowed. The practice of placing mirrors on the outside of the houses, is very common in Holland, and particularly in this town. They are fastened to the front wall, near the door, at such an angle, that the image of a person approaching, or at the door, can be distinctly seen by the family within. This singular custom, (for I know of no other country in which it is practised,) is doubtless one of those precautionary measures against the intrusion of dirty feet, for which the Dutch are so famous. They have another custom equally singular. A kind of cushion, of an ornamental appearance, is placed on the wall outside of the door, immediately on the birth of a child, and remains there as long as the mother continues in her chamber. Both here and at Amsterdam, I have noticed the frequent appearance of a wooden image over the doors or windows of shops, in the attitude of *gaping*. The effect would be ludicrous were it not so common. As an indication of public taste, it is beneath the character of the country.

The king has a pretty little palace in the environs of Haerlem, situated in a grove. In front of the main building were two large sphinxes, and a cast of Laocoon.

LETTER XXV.

Ipswich, 1st month, (Jan.) 4, 1819.

MY DEAR ****,

HAVING seen all that I supposed likely to afford me much interest at Haerlem, I set off at 3 P. M. for Leyden. The road and adjacent country exhibited those continued evidences of skill, industry, and neatness, which add so much to the pleasure of travelling in Holland. Leyden is about fifteen English miles from Haerlem. The driver, in the hope of a *bonne-main*, went at a rapid rate, and landed me at the "Golden Lyon" about dark. Having a letter for Professor Brugmans, of the university of this town, I called at his house in the evening and received his polite offer to facilitate the means of my seeing the University early in the morning. As he was engaged with company, he advised me to call without ceremony on the other professors, and agree with them upon an hour for visiting their respective departments. This I found no difficulty in accomplishing. On introducing myself to them, and explaining my motives, they received me with the frankness and politeness of men accustomed to the world, and fully able to appreciate the views of a traveller, who is in haste to effect the objects of his journey. The professors reside in private houses, in different parts of the town.

30th. At half past eight, I met the professor of Astronomy, (Eckama,) at his room, in the University. The collection of instruments is not so good as in many

other places, but the halls of observation are finely adapted to an extensive and satisfactory view of the whole hemisphere. They consist of three rooms, one above another, the uppermost surmounted by a circular roof which turns on an axis. On the top of the University is a large platform, paved with stone, from which an open view is obtained of the entire horizon. The observatory contains several large telescopes.

Professor Sandiford met me at the anatomical room, and opened, for my inspection, an exceedingly rich and valuable cabinet of preparations. Those of the finer membranes and integuments, are from the hands of Albinus, and were prepared for the purpose of illustrating his great work. Finer specimens of anatomical skill, cannot, perhaps, any where be found. This cabinet also contains a number of preparations of comparative anatomy, and a great variety of diseases of the bones. The skulls are very numerous. The theatre is circular, with a table in the centre. They have no wax figures, except those of the brain. Under such distinguished professors as Albinus, and De Pauw, it is not surprising that this theatre should have been the resort of students, from all parts of Europe. Professor Sandiford, is a successor worthy of those great men. His address is very pleasing to a stranger, and his manners, in this interview, were marked with the greatest urbanity. The professorships of natural history, (including botany, zoology, and mineralogy,) and chemistry, are concentrated in Dr. Brugmans. The museum of natural history, is exceedingly valuable, and very extensive, in all its departments. In the zoological cabinets, are two

fine specimens of the Hippopotamus; a large and a small one. The ornithology is in fine order; every bird being placed on a neatly turned wooden pin, which is painted white. The fish are numerous; among them is a great number of large turtles, one of which is nearly equal in size, to that in Scudder's museum, New-York. It is of the same species, *Tes-tudo Correacea*. In reptiles, insects, shells, and zoophytes, this museum also abounds. The minerals are uncommonly rich in malachites, and in amber. This extensive, and very valuable collection of natural history, has been greatly improved by professor Brugman's own researches in different parts of Europe. The cabinet of natural philosophy, was shown me by professor Van Der Eyk, who is at the head of that course of instruction. Neither the lecture room, nor the apparatus, appears to have undergone much alteration, since the time of S'Gravesand and Muschenbrœck, whose useful career of science, gave a distinguished elevation to this department of the Leyden university. The air pump, used by the latter, is still in good order. It was gratifying to see the name of Franklin, conspicuous among the electrical apparatus, in the very place where the *bottle* was discovered, which, under the impulse of his genius, gave such an extension to this branch of knowledge. Dr. Brugmans conducted me to his laboratory, where I had the pleasure of seeing the furnaces, alembics, and other instruments of the great Boerhaave, and of standing on the very spot, whence he delivered his learned instructions, to audiences assembled from almost every portion of the civilized globe. The lecture room is not large, but it is kept in good order. The botanic gar-

den is adjacent to the university. It is situated on the borders of the Rhine, and contains five or six acres of ground, and about 6000 plants. It is under the care of professor Brogmans, and does much credit to his taste. After completing our walk through the garden, he modestly informed me, that he had a private collection of natural history, prepared by himself, which he would willingly show me, if my inclination and time would induce me to see it. I gladly accepted the offer, and he took me into his own house, and introduced me into a suite of rooms, containing a museum of comparative anatomy, and natural history, superior to any thing I ever expected to see, after that of John Hunter, in London. In human anatomy, the variety was very extensive, especially in skulls. In relation to the theory of Gall and Spurzheim, professor B. expressed an unfavourable opinion. He thinks the rules they have laid down, are very fallacious; though their system includes many valuable truths. A fine collection of shells, a good Hortus Siccus, and several Egyptian mummies, are in this interesting cabinet. The mummies are in excellent preservation. On the box, or coffin of one of them, was a variety of hieroglyphics, among which, was one representation, to which professor B. directed my attention, as demonstrating, in his opinion, that the ancient Egyptians believed in the immortality, or future existence of the soul. In the middle of the group, is the body of a dead man, stretched upon a table. A figure is standing by, in the image of death, but with the head of a dog. This he considered as denoting vigilance, of which the dog's head is the emblem. Just over the head of the man, is the figure of a butter-

fly, in the act of ascending, the head of which has a human form. This appears to be clearly emblematical of the flight of the spirit, as an existence distinct from the body.

I took leave of professor Brugmans, with the highest opinion of his merits as a philosopher, and of his worth as a man. He holds an elevated rank in the university, and in the estimation of his countrymen. He is at the head of the hospital department, in the government of the low countries, and is charged, moreover, with the preparation of medicaments for the navy. For this purpose, there is a large chemical establishment, at the Hague, under his direction. He was so kind as to give me a letter of introduction to his agent, and to engage to meet me there himself. Few men possess a more open and intelligent countenance, or greater urbanity of manners, than Brugmans; and I have been informed, that Dr. Gall has pronounced his head to be one of the finest models in Europe, of perfect craniology.*

As it is now the period of vacation, at this university, I had not an opportunity of hearing lectures. The number of students, I was informed, is, in the whole, about 7 or 800. As a medical school, it has greatly declined since the time of Boerhaave, when it held the highest rank in Europe. All that professional ability can do, to secure its reputation, appears evidently to be exerted; but the great number of rival institutions, in this and other countries, has unavoidably deprived it of its former pre-eminence.

* This philosopher, so justly distinguished for the extent of his learning, and the amiableness of his character, is since deceased.

Having a letter for Van A*****, member of the States General of Holland, I called at his house, and spent about half an hour; and much regretted that my arrangements for leaving Leyden, prevented me from accepting an invitation to dinner, at five o'clock. He lives in genteel style, and is a man of extensive information, and of a philanthropic turn of mind. He is much interested in the concern, of affording proper support to the indigent, by the most unexceptionable means; and informed me of an agricultural colony, which has been commenced with this view. It is under the patronage and direction of the young prince Frederick.* A law has recently been enacted, which leaves the poor entirely subject to the special control and management of the town, or district, in which they reside, without any interference of the general government, except the regulation of the rights of residence.

* This colony is very flourishing, and has more than realised the expectation of its founders. It is called *Fredericksoord*, and is under the superintendence of General Van Bosch, who published an interesting account of it, about a year after its institution. Agreeably to the last year's report, dated August, 1822, the establishment consists of seven distinct colonies, but all near each other. They occupy a district of country, which, a few years ago, was a barren waste, but now tenanted by a busy and industrious population of 2500 persons, entirely and exclusively deriving subsistence from their own labour. So striking are the advantages of this mode of supporting the poor, by agricultural colonies, that the orphan and municipal institutions of Holland, are beginning to seize on them with avidity. M. Muller, one of the pupils of Fellenberg's school of industry, at Hofwyl, has been some time in the service of the colony, and has been of the greatest utility, in every important particular. He is of an excellent character, active and energetic, and possessed of a knowledge of agricultural and colonial economy, equally honourable to himself, and his zealous instructor.

Inquirer, April, 1823

Leyden is a pleasant and handsome town. The grand *Rue* is magnificent. The shops are many of them splendid. Cleanliness is every where observed. The town-house, or *hotel de ville*, is a curious antiquated building. In the church of St. Peter, are the monuments of Boerhaave and Camper. The inscription on the former is admirable for its simplicity.

Salutifero Boerhaavii genio sacrum.

I walked over the spot where the dreadful explosion took place, on the 12th of January, 1807. A boat laden with 40,000lbs, of gunpowder, and lying in the Rapenburg canal, in the midst of the city, took fire about one o'clock P. M., and destroyed all the houses within a very considerable distance around it. Several hundred lives were lost. The ruins were afterwards cleared away, and the space is now converted into a public parade. The buildings of the university of this city make no great figure.

I left Leyden at three, and rode to the Hague, distant nine miles. The Hotel de Vieux Doelen, where I put up, is a good inn, and very pleasantly situated. The entrance to this town, on the side of Leyden, gives one a very favourable opinion of the taste of the principal Dutch cities. We passed the palace in the wood, with which is connected a park two miles in length, graced with majestic oaks, and containing numerous deer.

31st. The Hague is the principal Dutch residence of the royal family, and here also the States-General occasionally hold their sessions. The chamber in which they sit has a painted ceiling, and is ornamented with pictures of all the *Williams*, who have been sovereigns or stadtholders of Holland. My

guide conducted me through the palace; a building of moderate dimensions. The furniture is neat, but far less rich and costly than that of the palace at Amsterdam. In many of the apartments, which, though not large, are very numerous, are portraits of different members of the royal family.

I took breakfast in a *Koffy Huis*, and was supplied, in addition to excellent coffee and bread and butter, with the latest Paris journals. In one of them I found the last message of the President to Congress; a document not the less interesting, from its being first met with in a foreign land.

The museum of paintings in this town, contains one of the choicest collections I have yet seen. It is not extensive, the whole number of pictures being about 125. One of the largest and best, is a young bull and other cattle, by Potter, painted in 1646. It appears nearly as fresh as if new. The spirit of its execution is admirable. An English nobleman offered, I was told, 100,000 guilders for it, but the Dutch set too high a value on the early productions of their school, to part with them on easy conditions. There are several fine pieces of Rubens in this cabinet, particularly of two of his wives. The genius of Rembrandt and of Gerard Douw, is also seen here to great advantage. Indeed, this appeared to me to be the most interesting collection of the works of Dutch and Flemish painters, that is any where to be found. A cabinet of Chinese curiosities is contained in the same building, but the director being absent with the key, I could not get in.

The chemical laboratory for the preparation of medicine, destined for the use of the government,

under the general direction of Professor Brugmans, (whom I met here,) and the immediate superintendence of — Van Mechen, gave me the highest satisfaction, as it regards the skill and perfection of the operations. The barks, roots, &c., used in physic, are pulverized by two stone rollers in the form of a frustum of a cone, and moved by a horse. The harder woods and barks, are finely chipped by cutters or knives, which work like stampers, in a strong wooden box. The knives do not reach quite to the bottom of the box. Herbs are chipped in the same way. The bark, after being ground, is bolted through a cloth like flour, and is thus obtained of various degrees of fineness. The physicians of Holland, as well as those of France, appear to deal much more in Galenicals, than is the practice in England and America. Van Mechen conducted me to the building of a philosophical society, called the *Diligentia*. It comprehends 250 members, who pay three florins on admission and nine florins annually. The building contains a large and very fine lecture room, the seats of which are all cushioned. It has a gallery, behind which are the cases of philosophical apparatus. I was surprised to find so extensive a collection. It comprehends not only the more common and useful instruments of the present day, but also those of former times, for the purpose of illustrating the history of the physical sciences. They have likewise a collection of minerals, and another of shells. Two classes or sections, are chosen from the members of the society, the one on literature and the other on the physical sciences. A lecture is delivered once a week, alternately from the two sections, which com-

prehend forty persons, about sixteen of whom, mostly physicians, constitute the section on natural and experimental science. In this town, as well as at Amsterdam, there is a "Society for the promotion of public good." Its influence is considered as propitious to the general welfare.

The Hague is the most beautiful town for its size, that I have seen in Europe. The buildings in some of its principal streets and places are magnificent. The canals and larger reservoirs are so disposed as to add a charming variety to the city, a variety which is agreeably augmented by the rural effect of majestic trees. Its population is about 38,000. In one quarter there are evidences of poverty and distress, but in general the appearance of the town is indicative of wealth and comfort, while the attention so universally paid to cleanliness, gives to the whole an air of decency that cannot fail to delight the eye of every stranger. The Hague is not walled. It is enclosed with a ditch over which are several draw-bridges. For a dinner, lodging, use of a room with fire, and a cold cut before setting off, I paid five florins fifteen sous, (two dollars thirty-five cents.) As the travelling in Holland is principally by water, during the greater part of the year, the land stages are less an object of attention than in other parts of the continent.

I left the Hague at three P. M. for Rotterdam, in a two horse vehicle, which serves as a stage while the canals are frozen. The distance is nine miles, and the fare two florins one sous. My only companion, was a young Rotterdamer, who entered the coach, equipped with that never failing source of

Dutch amusement, a capacious, well lighted pipe. As he spoke French, I received from him, along with the smoke, a good deal of local information. Delft, on our road, is a well-built town, of the same cleanly character with those already mentioned. It contains upwards of 13.000 inhabitants. In a church in this town is the tomb of Grotius, to whom a monument was erected in the same building about twenty years ago. The family vault of the princes of Orange is likewise in the same place. I remarked in riding through this town, that the mirrors attached to the outside of the houses, were unusually numerous. A great number of fine country seats appeared in this day's ride. At Rotterdam I found excellent accommodations at the "Grand Badt Huis" (Bath House) which has a charming situation on the Boompies, a wide street which forms the border of the Maese. The river is here, I should think, at least half a mile wide. English was spoken by the master of the inn, and several of the servants.

1st month, 1st, 1819. At a *Caffé François* I breakfasted on Dutch coffee. The bread and butter were placed upon the table ready spread, and covered with thin slices of cheese. As New-Year's day is kept with religious punctuality, I found some difficulty in procuring admission to the institutions of the city. The British consul, to whom I was addressed, kindly lent me his assistance, by introducing me to his physician, Dr. Davids, a Jew, whose son conducted me to a hospital for old women, and to another for insane persons; but no admission could be gained without an order from a burgomaster. At the city hospital we were more successful, but it proved to be a poor

place. The men's apartments were full of smoke, and the whole house presented as singular a contrast with the hospitals of France, as the cleanliness of a Dutch village, does with the dirt and filth of a French bourg. There is an anatomical school in Rotterdam, or rather, a place where lectures are occasionally delivered. A sort of museum is attached to it, which I found to contain a considerable number of odd things, kept in a style of slovenliness unworthy of Holland. Several skeletons black with smoke, the heads of two murderers preserved in spirits, and a large urinary calculus, which a shoemaker, in a fit of vexation, had extracted from his own body, were among the collectanea of this museum. The knife of the shoemaker, which was the only surgical instrument employed in this extraordinary case of lithotomy, is also preserved, and along with it the story that he actually got well.

The statue of Erasmus, erected in honour of that great man by the Rotterdammers, is highly creditable to their national feelings and to the skill of the artist. It is a colossal figure in bronze, clothed in a wide flowing mantle, with a large book in his hand, on which he is looking. On each of the four sides of the pedestal, is an inscription, two of them in Latin, and two in Dutch. Seldom, if ever, have monumental honours been conferred upon a man more deserving of the grateful and agreeable recollections of his country and posterity, than in this instance. The simplicity and purity of his life, the depth of his learning, the soundness of his faith, and above all, the zeal and ability with which he laboured to establish the mild and pacific principles of Christian love and for

bearance between nations, as well as individuals, place him among the benefactors of mankind. This fine statue is in a most inappropriate situation—at the head of a quay, along side of a wide canal, and in one of the busiest, dirtiest commercial resorts of the city. Were it the statue of Van Tromp, or De Ruyter, its situation would not be amiss.

I had an introduction from Professor Brugmans to Dr. Mogge Pous, a physician of Rotterdam, and found it an effectual excitement to his civility and kindness. He went with me to the rooms of the Batavian society,—a philosophical institution which has long been established in this city. It contains a large and excellent collection of apparatus. They have a Dollond's telescope of nine feet focus. One room is appropriated to models, chiefly illustrative of the steam engine, wind-mill, and hydraulic machinery. These models are merely made for illustration, and are kept in tolerably good order. The library of the society is valuable. The building contains a number of rooms appropriated to different objects. Such an institution is certainly honourable to this commercial city; but at present the society is very inert; indeed, if my information was correct, it is almost extinct with respect to the main objects of its formation,—the cultivation of science and the arts; meetings seldom take place, and nothing is done in the way of instruction.

The shops are all shut to-day, and the streets are filled with inhabitants, of both sexes, going to, and returning from, their respective places of worship. They are generally well dressed. The young

females all wear caps, and, except among the modern fashionables, they pass through the streets without any other covering. The men wear large hats, but the triangular form is not so common here as in Amsterdam. I have been forcibly struck with the healthy and fine appearance of the people, as they pass through the streets in their New-Year's garb. The women are certainly handsome. In clearness of complexion, they are excelled by no nation, excepting perhaps the Irish; and to those who are not prejudiced in favour of the Grecian form, the contour of a Dutch lady's face is by no means destitute of the lines of beauty.

The Dutch and German servants, so common in America, convey no adequate impression of the genuine features of the upper classes in Holland.

The canals which pass through Rotterdam, are universally large. Merchant ships, of the first rate, pass through them, into the heart of the city. The borders of many of them are very ornamental, having on one or both sides, a wide street, faced with spacious and well built houses, in front of which is a broad pavement, lined with trees. But in its general appearance, Rotterdam is very inferior to either of the Dutch towns already noticed. It is irregularly built, and much less cleanly than Leyden, or the Hague. The silversmiths expose their wares in glass cases erected on blocks in front of their houses. The constant use of tobacco, produces a vast deal of petty trade in that article. No shop sign is more frequently presented to the eye, than *Tabak de koop*, "tobacco to be sold."

There are many more English residents in Rotterdam, than in any other Dutch town. The trade between the two countries, is more direct from this city, it is less interrupted by ice, and ships of the largest burden come directly to the port. Much of the goods destined for Amsterdam, are brought here from England, and transmitted by the canals.

Several wealthy individuals possess collections of paintings, but I did not take time to solicit admission to any of them.

I would gladly have proceeded to Helvoetsluys by water, but the frozen state of the canals, and the vast quantity of floating ice in the river, rendered such a conveyance impossible.

Taking leave of the British consul, to whose friendship I am indebted for many civilities, and especially for two letters to the agents of the packets, I engaged a cabriolet, to convey me to Maas Sluys, a town on the river Maese, twelve miles below Rotterdam. The dykes of the river, I was informed, were not to be trusted, at this season of the year, and it was therefore necessary to go round, by way of Delft. The horses, in this country, as far as I have seen them, are excellent. They are mostly black, large, and well kept. The slowness of their gait, in the public vehicles, has been a common complaint with travellers; but my own experience, by no means confirms the fault. I have found no difficulty in exciting the drivers to a rapid gait, and they have been quite as modest in their views of remuneration, as their neighbours. The turnpike gates, or rather bars, are very numerous on the public roads; a circumstance, which increases the expense of travelling. Maas Sluys, is

a town of 6 or 8000 inhabitants. At the inn of this place, where I lodged, I was subjected to an embarrassment, that I had not before experienced. Not an individual was there in the house, that could speak either English or French, and I knew nothing of the Dutch, excepting a very few words, which had forced themselves upon my notice, since entering Holland. I was the only guest in the house, the evening was cold, and the kitchen fire, around which the household was gathered, afforded the most agreeable quarters. The family consisted of a husband, wife, a daughter fully grown, and four or five younger children, all in fine health, and of very decent appearance. The incitements to conversation, under those circumstances, were numerous. A mutual disposition was felt, to receive and communicate information. To know something of their guest, his country, and the course he was travelling, was natural to my host, as well as to the *gude frauw*, who, though very meekly intent upon her domestic concerns, showed, by the occasional turn of her eye, that she was descended from the wife of Adam. On my part, the wish to inquire into some particulars of the good man's family, and house, and to give some directions for supper, &c. was at least equally pungent. The struggle to give birth to our thoughts, during the evening, was quite amusing. Scraps of sentences, patched together from the French, Dutch, and English, and aided by the less equivocal, and more expressive language of signs, enabled us to interchange ideas on a variety of subjects, more immediately interesting to both. The frauw prepared a good supper, and, for reasons I did not understand, her husband very civilly joined

me in partaking of it. He sat down to the table with his hat on; took it off to say grace, both before and after the meal, but continued it on his head during the repast. The children were employed either with light work, or their lessons. Before they retired to bed, one of the younger ones, a girl of about twelve, repeated audibly a prayer, the rest observing a perfect silence. The mother appeared anxious to accommodate me with a soft and well warmed bed, and indeed hospitality was evidently combined with the usual calculations of the publican, in their attentions to my comfort.

The large and fertile island of Rosenberg, situated in the Maese, immediately opposite the town, formed part of the route to Helvoet Sluys. The ferry, on each side, was passed without difficulty, though there was much ice floating in the river. I was taken across the island by a boy, in an open chair or gig. Brille is a neat, fortified town, about a quarter of a mile from the river, on the north side. Canals pass through the streets, many of which are lined with trees. At the Boar's Head inn, I stopped to breakfast, and was obliged to hire a post chaise, to convey me to Helvoet, for which I was charged three guilders, twelve sous, though the distance is only five miles. Several passengers from Amsterdam, to England, had just preceded me. Brille is the birth-place of Admiral Van Tromp. The inhabitants subsist very much by their fisheries.

Arrived at Helvoet, at half past eleven, I found that the tide was adverse to our departure, and as there was no wind to oppose it. we were obliged to

wait till morning. Helvoet is a small town, and contains nothing particularly interesting.

An introduction to the agent of the packets, from the consul at Rotterdam, made me acquainted with an agreeable English family, with whom I spent part of the evening. They are the only English people in the place. Two of their children are at school in England, and it is only from motives of interest that they consent to remain here, as the society of the town is by no means to their taste; and they do not find in the Dutch character, many of those qualities which are calculated to soften the absence of their native homebred attractions. In some late English papers, which the agent lent me, he directed my attention to an extract from travels in the United States, by Fearon. It was descriptive of a Methodist meeting in the Ebenezer church at Philadelphia. Shouting, clapping of hands, jumping, &c., were stated as parts of the proceeding in that place of worship. On his appealing to me, relative to the probable truth of this statement, I was obliged to confess that I had witnessed transactions in several parts of the United States, equally extravagant, and foreign from the solemnities of rational and pious worship. This, however, is by no means to be considered as the general practice of this numerous and respectable sect. On the contrary, it is only the occasional aberration of an inferior party or division of the Methodists, and is condemned, I believe, by the great body of them.

The mistress of the hotel, (Hobson's,) a pretty Dutch woman, spoke English with surprising correctness, and informed me that she preferred it to her native tongue.

3d. We were called up at six to pay our bills, and take our stations in the packet. We were given to understand that every passenger who lodged at the hotel, in addition to the charges for his accommodations in the house, must pay for a bottle of gin, an article deemed by the Dutch, an essential part of the provision for a sea voyage. Every one, indeed, was at liberty to leave his bottle behind, provided it was paid for; but not knowing what exposure we might meet with in the passage, the gin was ordered on board. This is, however, a reprehensible custom; for there are few instances in which much of the liquor will be wanted, and very few of the passengers will wish to take it from the vessel. It then becomes the property of the sailors, and must go to increase their too frequent habits of intemperance. It would be easy for the captain to provide as much spirituous liquor as would be requisite for any emergency.

In crossing the canal on our way to the packet, we were stopped by the gate; and because it was a few minutes before the regular time of opening them, we were obliged to pay twelve stivers each, for the privilege of passing through. These petty exactions appear to be thoroughly understood, and faithfully practiced, throughout this money getting nation. I do not believe that the Dutch are a dishonest people, but they are ingenious in discovering the means of levying contributions upon the purses of strangers and travellers, by *legal*, and of course by *honest*, demands.

The packet weighed anchor about 8 A. M. but the air was so calm we made but little progress for some time. Of the dangerous navigation of this coast we

were convinced, not merely by common report, but by the evidence of our eyes. A ship had struck the sands off the end of Goree, and lay in a condition which would probably occasion her total loss. This had occurred, as the captain informed us, during the preceding day or night. The packet in which we were embarked, was the sloop Earl of Leicester, of about 75 tons, adapted almost exclusively to passengers. The accommodations were as good as so small a vessel would well admit of. The captain, as one of his Britannic majesty's officers, wore a royal badge in the lace and form of his coat. He informed me that he had been thirty years engaged in the service of the packets between England and Holland; and his brown and weather-beaten physiognomy, and the rigidity of his facial muscles, appeared to confirm the truth of his statement. His manners were courteous towards his passengers, and his crew was evidently in excellent order. Towards noon the wind blew a stiff breeze, tossing our light vehicle with such rapid and irregular motion as to induce most of the passengers, including myself, to seek relief in our births. In our cabin company was a respectable and agreeable English lady, on her return to London, from a visit to a married daughter who had settled at Leipsic. She had performed the greater part of the journey alone, in the severity of winter, and unacquainted with the language of any of the countries she had been obliged to pass through. She described to me, with great feeling and animation, the hardships she had experienced from the difficulty of making herself understood, the excessive roughness and coarseness of the travelling accommodations in Germany, and more

particularly, from the absence of those ideas of delicacy and intimate knowledge of the wants of travellers, at the common inns of that country, which are ever considered as part of the qualifications of an English landlord, and of all those that constitute his household. In paying for her fare she was obliged to advance whatever was demanded, and receive her change without remonstrance, because she understood neither the language nor the coin. She advertised pathetically to the fears that occasionally almost overwhelmed her, at the thought of being arrested by illness at some of the *cabarets* she was obliged to stop at, when scarcely an idea could be exchanged with those who should surround her. I had occasion, in this instance, to admire the independence of mind and active fortitude, which could induce a female, past the meridian of life, and of refined habits, to encounter such a various and extended journey, especially at this season of the year. Her anxiety to rejoin her family, and the expectation of being accompanied, at least into Holland, by a person with whom she left Leipsic, as a respectable *companion de voyage*, were the motives which urged her to encounter it. Her escort left her abruptly on account of an unexpected turn in his commercial affairs.

4th. At half past four, A. M. the packet anchored in the road of Harwich; and we were called up to go on shore. The distance from Helvoetsluys, is estimated at ninety miles. Our passage, of course, has been very favourable. The weather began to relax of its severity after I left Amsterdam, and had become mild and agreeable.

We knocked at the door of the *Three Cups* inn at Harwich, and were admitted by a servant, who soon kindled a fire, and displayed to us the comforts of a large and well-furnished room. Though day-light had not yet appeared, the landlord, a man of corpulent and true John Bull appearance, soon joined us, and interested himself, with the greatest civility, in our welfare. Once more returned, after an absence of five months, to a land of carpets, of the English tongue, and what, to a stranger, is more than all, to kind and generous friends, I could easily persuade myself that I was on the verge of *home*. On the continent every thing was foreign. Here, though there is enough of novelty to enliven the traveller, the country and its manners possess the inestimable advantage of familiarity and social ease. After partaking, with my fellow-passengers, of an English breakfast, and obtaining a clearance of my baggage at the Custom House, where I was treated with much civility, I crossed the wide ferry of the river Stour, and hired an open gig, the only vehicle to be obtained, to convey me to Ipswich, distant about ten miles. A more favourable morning for a return to English scenery, I could scarcely have found during the whole winter. The atmosphere was clear and mild, and the fields and hedges were clothed in the almost undiminished verdure of a luxuriant autumn. No traces of winter were visible, except a little white frost, which soon yielded to the softened temperature of day. This part of the county of Suffolk appeared to be in high cultivation. The meanderings of the Orwell were on my right, which stream I crossed on

entering Ipswich. This is the principal county town of Suffolk. It is a mile in length, built of brick, and contains several pleasant streets and places.

I should probably incur the imputation of inordinate self-complacency, were I to speak in such terms as my feelings would dictate, of the warmth of kindness which was shown me on my arrival here, by a circle of friends, with whom I had become well acquainted in London. At the house of one of them. R. D. A——, I enjoyed a home during three days, in all the comforts which simple elegance, and affectionate hospitality could bestow. There was an anticipation of the wishes natural to a stranger, and a cordiality in the manner of conferring civilities, which were as indicative of taste and feeling, as they were certain of enkindling the most delightful sensibilities

LETTER XXVI.

London, 1st month, (Jan.) 13, 1819.

MY DEAR ****,

AMONG the calls which I made under the guidance of a friend, on the day of my arrival at Ipswich, was one at the house of Priscilla Wakefield, whose very judicious publications in the higher walks of education, have rendered her name familiar wherever the English language is rightly cultivated. She is a member of the society of Friends, and is now in advanced life, and in very infirm health. Our conversation though short, was lively and agreeable, from the inter-

rest which she still feels and expresses, in the progress of useful knowledge and virtuous principles.

The population of Ipswich is about 15,000. It was a town of considerable importance, as early as the period of the Danish and Saxon invasion. Cardinal Wolsey was born in this town, and from a desire to bestow some marks of regard upon the place of his nativity, he resolved to build and endow a college and grammar school, to serve as a nursery for his great college at Oxford. But he had scarcely completed the foundation, before his disgrace put a sudden stop to all his schemes of further aggrandizement, and nothing now remains of this foundation, except a gateway. This gate is of brick, worked into niches, wreathed pinnacles, chimnies, flowers, &c., according to the fashion of the times. The only stone in it is a square tablet on which are engraved the arms of Henry VIII.

The prison in this town is built on the plan of Howard, which appears to be exceedingly well adapted, to an easy and efficient oversight of the prisoners, by the inspector. It is in the form of a cross, in the centre of which is a circular room commanding a view of each wing. The chapel is in this central building. This prison is kept in a superior style of cleanliness and order. It contained fifty-eight prisoners, who, during the day, work in large rooms or in the yards, but at night they are locked in cells. The women are kept distinct from the men. From the top of the building we had a fine view of the town. It contains no less than twelve parish churches, and ten meeting houses; an extraordinary number for the population. It is lighted with coal gas, under the

direction of a company organized for that purpose. The manufactory of the gas pleased me more than any I had seen; as it appeared to furnish a greater quantity of light from a given weight of coal, and to be managed with greater economy of expense and labour, than any which has fallen within my notice. Education is an object of general concern in Ipswich. Lancasterian schools are established; and I have been particularly gratified, in a visit to a female school of more than a hundred pupils, taken from the labouring classes, and taught under the gratuitous support and direction of a single person, the brother of my worthy host. It is managed with great spirit, and with the happiest effects, as it regards the literary and moral advancement of the scholars.

The government taxes in this town and neighbourhood, are considered as a heavy and almost intolerable burden. In an adjacent parish they amount, as I was credibly informed, to 29 shillings in the pound, on the rates of the assessor! The assessments, however, are acknowledged to be low. But to judge of the actual condition of the people, from what we hear of their enormous taxes, and the multitude of paupers that are supported by public bounty, one would form a very different estimate, from that which would naturally be drawn from an observance of the country, the villages and towns, the high cultivation, general neatness, and comparative freedom from mendicity and other exterior exhibitions of poverty and distress. In all these particulars, appearances, since I have crossed the channel, are wonderfully in favour of British industry and comfort, compared with many, very many places in France, Switzerland, Italy, and

Belgium, where poor taxes are unknown. I cannot, therefore, but think that there is a sort of counter-acting and redeeming principle in the spirit of British taxation, which tends greatly to alleviate the pressure it produces. When taxes become so general, and an object of such universal interest, as they are here, they must enter into every man's calculation, and effect his decisions in all the concerns of domestic economy, of trade, commerce, and business of every description. The price of every thing will, of course, be regulated by the taxes. If a house is to be rented, or a horse purchased, the taxes will be previously considered, and the price offered must be proportionately reduced. The amount paid into the public treasury remains not there an inert mass of wealth; but is distributed, incessantly, through the innumerable arteries of the great body of the nation, repairing, as in the animal constitution, the waste occasioned by its transmission, and thus contributing to the vigour and health of the political system. I do not mean to imply that there are not clear evidences of an inordinate excitement,—of morbid action, in this regimen of taxation; and that it is not arriving, by rapid advances, to its maximum of political aggravation. But its effects seem to me but little obvious in the general aspect of the nation, and it is only by inquiring into details, that one can become convinced of its distressful operation. Whether it is an evil that can be fully remedied, without introducing others quite as injurious to the national prosperity, is a question that I cannot pretend to decide. It is possible too, perhaps, that those external appearances of prosperity may be fallacious. It may not be philosophical to judge of a nation's

happiness in the aggregate, by its green fields, its excellent roads, good fences, cleanly and decent hamlets, flourishing villages and cities, intelligent population, the number of its wise and liberal institutions, and the comparative absence of mendicity and wretchedness. There may be lurking in the midst of all this, a vast deal of uneasiness, discontent, hardship and suffering. But so far as those external marks of national welfare, are admissible criteria of national happiness, no unprejudiced person, who returns to England, after travelling over the continent, will be likely, I think, to infer, that British taxation is the worst thing in the world.

On the 5th I made an excursion with several friends to Woodbridge, to attend a monthly meeting of the society. The congregation was small, but composed of persons, whose dress and appearance indicated, very generally, a respectable rank in life. The morning was foggy and cold,—and after a ride of eleven miles, to sit several hours in a house without fire, was, as it appeared to me, a destitution of comfort not called for by the nature of the service, to which the building is dedicated. It surpasses even the self-denial of the Dutch, whose places of worship are supplied with earthen cups and charcoal for the benefit of those that choose to use them. The time has been when a stove or fire-place, in a religious meeting, was unknown in England; and any proposition to introduce such a luxury, would have been rejected as unworthy of the dignity of the occasion, and derogatory of the service. But this notion of abstemiousness seems now to be yielding to the opinion, that the solemnity of religious exercise is not essentially con-

needed with bodily penance, and accordingly, it is said to be no unusual thing to see a handsome stove and a good fire, in houses appropriated to worship. In America this attention to bodily comfort, is, in the winter season almost universal. Woodbridge is a brick town, of 3000 inhabitants, but inferior to Ipswich in pleasantness. On our return, we spent the evening at Goldrood, the seat of a friend, in the vicinity of the latter town. In the enjoyment of independence, and with a family of eleven children, all in blooming health—I had an opportunity of witnessing, in this instance, an interesting example of the excellence of domestic order.

7th. Accompanied by my hostess and her sister, both the daughters of my venerable friend, D. of H——m Lodge, near London, I left Ipswich for Bury St. Edmunds. We stopped at Needham, a town containing an unusual number of low thatched houses.

In the neatly improved grounds of a friend, at whose house we dined, I was much amused, in endeavouring to make my way to the centre of a labyrinth, the different convolutions of which are formed of hedges trimmed about breast high. In the centre was a tree, which it is the object of the novice to attain. The concentric paths of the labyrinth so merge into each other, as to render the effort not a little puzzling and entertaining.

8th. Knowing that Thomas Clarkson, the well known philanthropist, was on a visit at Bury St. Edmunds, my companions, who were in the number of his intimate friends, called upon him, as we entered the town last evening, and had the satisfaction to engage him to take breakfast with us this morning at the An-

gel Inn. He came at the appointed time; and, by a demeanour, gentle and affable, rendered himself at once an agreeable and interesting companion. His person is above the middle size. His countenance betrays the impression of care and abstraction—derived, without doubt, from his long and intense application to the great cause which has occupied so much of his life, and which, in conjunction with Wilberforce and others, he had the happiness to bring to a triumphant issue. He entered warmly into conversation on the condition of slavery in America, and expressed an earnest solicitude to witness some more determinate efforts by the friends of humanity, to alleviate the condition of the slaves, to prepare them gradually for freedom, and at the same time to allay the fears of those, who anticipate, from their emancipation, nothing but distress and danger. The plan of the American colonization society, does not appear to meet his views of extensive utility. Could a colony be established in some safe place nearer home, to which transportation would be more easy, and where the colonization society, or the government, could readily direct its superintending care and patronage, there would, he thinks, be a much greater probability, of its becoming effectually instrumental in promoting the welfare and happiness, both of the black and white population of the United States. The severe restraints laid by some of the southern states upon the education of slaves, are very repugnant to his views, both of humanity and of sound policy. The mind of this distinguished man still glows with zeal for the happiness of this oppressed people, and with an earnest solicitude for their liberation from the galling yoke

of slavery. But having secured the main object to which the prime of his life was so intently and religiously devoted,—the recognition of the absolute injustice of the African slave trade, and its entire prohibition by the British Parliament, he has now quietly established himself on a farm in the county of Suffolk, and lives an agricultural life; still attentive, however, to watch the progress of African emancipation, and to embrace every suitable occasion of urging its claims upon the humanity of nations.

After an interesting conversation with this good man, he conducted one of my female companions and myself, with the sprightliness of a youthful cicerone, to several curious remains of antiquity, in the town of Bury. The principal are a gateway, and the remains of a large abbey. The gatehouse is nearly entire, and is justly regarded as a master piece of Gothic architecture. It was built in the reign of Richard II. and of course, it is at least 400 years old. The inside is adorned with the arms of Holland, duke of Exeter, and of Edward the Confessor, who was one of Richard's favourites. The abbey was once a most illustrious structure. It was founded by Sigibert, king of east Anglia; but was destroyed, and afterwards rebuilt, by Canute the Great. The monks of this abbey, during the reign of Catholic superstition, acquired great influence and wealth; but being continually engaged in quarrels with the town's people, the abbey was dissolved by Henry VIII. and its revenues added to his treasury. It is now a heap of shapeless ruins, consisting of small stones and mortar.

The prison of this town, is a pattern of judicious arrangement, and good management. The buildings

are six in number, all detached from each other, except that the chapel, in the central building, is connected by bridges, with the five circumjacent edifices. The plan is, I believe, considered as an improvement on that of Howard. The keeper of this prison, appeared to me to be a man of extraordinary qualifications; his regulations being all admirably adapted to secure the confidence and respect of the prisoners. The number of them was 112, of whom 12 were females. About 5 in 100 return to the prison by recommitment, for offences after being discharged. They are employed at different kinds of labour. Many of the men, I remarked, were engaged in grinding corn, by means of a very large wheel, with a broad circumference, inside of which several of the men were moving, so as to give motion to the wheel. They were aided by others on the outside.* They receive one fifth of their earnings weekly, and one fifth on their departure. No spirituous or fermented liquors is allowed them, except, occasionally, a little beer to those who labour diligently. They receive one and a half pounds of bread per day, and meat once a week only. The space between the buildings, and the outer wall, is cultivated as a garden. The whole interior arrangement is creditable to the taste and judgment of the directors and keeper. A plan of this prison was shown us, which had been prepared for the Emperor Alexander.

* This was the first tread-wheel erected in England, as a means of employment and reformation of prisoners. Its rapid adoption in the prisons of the kingdom, and its beneficial effects, both there and in the New-York penitentiary, where it has been some time in operation, are honourable testimonials of the judgment and ingenuity of the inventor, W. Cubitt, of Ipswich.

T. Clarkson, having obligingly furnished me with letters for Cambridge, I left Bury early in the afternoon, with one of my female companions from Ipswich, whom I had the pleasure of escorting to London, whither she was returning from a visit to her sister. The road from Bury to Cambridge, is uninteresting, from the great extent of dreary waste. It leads through Newmarket, so notorious in the annals of jockeyism, racing, and gambling. This town consists of one street, and, as might be expected, it abounds in inns. It is surrounded by a large plain. The house built by Charles II. in which he resided during the season of frolic, is still shown.

We reached Cambridge at six, and obtained, at the Hoop inn, comfortable quarters, with the important addition, so creditable to the inns of this country, of good attendance. The entrance to Cambridge is not imposing, nor does its general appearance bear any comparison with Oxford, in the venerable richness of its edifices, combined with the width and beauty of its streets.

My letters of introduction were to two of the tutors, both of whom were fellows; one of St. Peter's, and the other of Jesus College. The latter is the Registrar of the university. As it was dark before we were settled in our quarters at the inn, and wishing to avail myself, as fully as possible, of the short stay I should make, I sent my letters by a servant of the inn, to the persons to whom they were addressed. He returned with information that one of them would call upon us in the course of the evening, and a note or message from the other, assured us that he would call in the morning. The former, *. *****, a cle-

rical gentleman, soon came, and by the most easy and affable deportment, opened the way for an immediate friendly acquaintance. We were thus assured, in the most obliging manner, of their readiness to procure for us every practicable facility in visiting the colleges.

9th. The registry, *. *****, called at half past ten, and conducted us to St. John's and Trinity colleges, and through the ornamented grounds, along the margin of the Cam. We found him as open and affable as his friend had been, the preceding evening.

Trinity college makes a noble appearance. It is the most magnificent member of the university. Its buildings enclose two spacious quadrangular courts, the largest of which is nearly a quarter of a mile in circuit. Its entrance is through a tower gateway, which is surmounted with a statue of Henry VIII. the founder of this college. In passing through the kitchen, the vast extent of the fireplace, and the size of the roasting jack, naturally excited our astonishment; and it appeared very evident, from the structure of the grate, and other apparatus, that the learned members of this university, prefer roast to boiled. The walks along the river, and through the grounds, are beautiful even in winter; but less various and attractive than those of Oxford. The trees are planted so as to form agreeable vistas, opening to the principal buildings. Many of them are chesnut and linden, of great size, and towering height. The Cam is a trifling stream,—not larger than a common canal.

Our agreeable guide next conducted us to the Fitz Williams museum, where we were introduced to

Professor Cumming, who holds the department of chemistry in the university. This museum is a recent and important acquisition. It is a bequest to the university, by Viscount Fitzwilliams, who died in 1816, leaving to his alma mater his splendid collection of books, paintings, drawings, engravings, &c. together with £100,000 in South Sea annuities, for the erection of a museum for their reception. The building is not yet commenced, but the museum is temporarily accommodated in a place obtained for that purpose. Among the paintings are some valuable productions from the pencils of Reubens, Rembrandt, and Titian, and two from Gerard Douw. The library contains a fine selection of important works.

Professor Cumming conducted me to his lecture room and laboratory, and showed me his apparatus. The collection appeared to be extensive and interesting, but, as might be expected during the time of vacation, it was in some confusion. In the same building Dr. E. D. Clarke, the celebrated traveller, who is professor of mineralogy in this university, has his collection, and delivers his lectures. Being informed of our intended visit at the laboratory, he agreed to meet us, though suffering from a recent indisposition. Having previously ordered a fire in his lecture room, he joined us at the appointed time, and exhibited to our particular notice all that was most interesting in his curious and valuable cabinet of minerals; and also his mode of experimenting with the compound blow-pipe, the results of which have gained for him a considerable share of popular, scientific reputation. He was anxious to clear himself from the imputation of unfairness in neglecting to at-

tribute the original invention of this instrument to its rightful claimant Professor Hare of Philadelphia; and took pains to convince me that he had never deviated from candour and justice in what he had published respecting it. My impression is, that he has not been fully aware of Professor Hare's claims, nor of the results that have been obtained in America. Dr. Clarke's style of conversation and action is unusually vivid and energetic. He appears to be by nature an enthusiast; but the ardour of his fancy is tempered by learning, extensive knowledge, and the love of order. At his own house, whither he kindly pressed us to accompany him, he showed us a variety of curious things, arranged and preserved in the greatest neatness. His person is not particularly prepossessing; but three of his children whom we had met walking with their nurse in the public grounds, were, we thought, uncommonly beautiful. Dr. C. showed us, in his private cabinet, a volume of original letters of Linnæus and other distinguished men. His character, from the peculiar cast of his mind, and the store of information he has acquired from his travels, excites, even upon a hasty interview, far more than common interest; and I could but regret that the shortness of my stay in Cambridge forbade a more extended acquaintance.*

In the same building in which Dr. Clarke and Pro-

* Lamented by the scientific world, this eminent man breathed his last on the 9th of March, 1822, aged about 53 years. His health had been long declining. The degree of L.L.D. was conferred upon him in a full senate of the University, as some return for the lustre which his name had reflected upon it, and in gratitude for his numerous contributions to its library and museum.

fessor Cumming give their instructions, Professor Farish delivers his lectures on practical mechanics. We were shown a considerable portion of his apparatus, but, as he was not in town, I had not the pleasure of entering, as I should have been glad to do, more minutely into the subjects of his important and very useful department.

At five we accepted an invitation to dine with our friend H*****, the Registrary, in Jesus College. Professor Cumming, who is a fellow of Trinity College, was also a guest. The apartments occupied by the Fellows, are large and well furnished; and, in every respect, a fit residence for private gentlemen. The suite of rooms into which we were introduced, was sufficient for a common family; but the Fellows are not allowed to marry, except at the expense of their collegiate living. The manners of these gentlemen were perfectly easy and agreeable, without any mixture of the pride of learning, or affectation of superiority. The evening passed pleasantly in their society till nine o'clock, enlivened by a current of agreeable and polished conversation. Our dinner, though not luxurious, was excellent in its kind, and in ample variety for the occasion.

Jesus College is at a considerable distance from all the others, and, indeed, from the town itself. It has, accordingly, more extensive grounds and meadows, than either of the sister institutions. Its front is 180 feet. It was formerly a convent of Benedictine nuns. It has a Master, and sixteen fellows, each of whom has a large and separate garden. The number of its members, including students of every description, is about 130.

The whole university consists of twelve colleges and four halls. Peter House, the oldest, was founded in 1247; and Sidney Sussex, the latest, in 1598. A new institution, called Downing College, from the name of the founder, was commenced in 1807, but is not yet completed. The sole founder was Sir George Downing, a wealthy gentleman of Cambridgeshire, who died in 1749.

10th. At an early hour we renewed our rambles through the courts and grounds of some of the principal colleges. They all have an antiquated, and some of them a gloomy exterior. The chapels of Kings and Trinity, are splendid monuments of the wealth, the pride, the skill, and, I would fain add, the piety of former ages. The interior of Kings' Chapel, more than realized the expectations I had formed from the animated description of it, given me by Thomas Clarkson. Walpole styled it, and with great reason, "a work, alone, sufficient to ennoble any age." The chapel is 316 feet long and 84 in breadth. It has a tower at each corner 114 feet high. The ceiling or internal roof is of white marble, and is, by far, the most elegant specimen of this kind of architectural beauty I have ever beheld. It is composed of Gothic arches, filled up with beautiful groins; and in the centre, between the groins, are suspended twelve massive stones, of at least a ton weight each. The under surface of these stones, is beautifully carved into a rose and portcullis alternately. The windows are Gothic, and each of them nearly 50 feet high. On these windows there are about one hundred paintings, done in the most exquisite style. The subjects are all taken from the Old and New Testament. This su-

perb structure was founded by Henry VI., but not completed before his death. The chapel of Trinity College, was erected by Mary and Elizabeth. It is also an elegant Gothic structure, but more simple than the other. Its interior is 204 feet by 34, but divided by a transverse gallery which contains, it is said, one of the largest organs in England. The altar piece is a fine painting by B. West, of St. Michael binding Satan. In the anti-chapel, is an admirable full length statue of Sir Isaac Newton, who was a member of this college. He is standing on a pedestal, in full dress, with a gown over his other garments, the folds of which, appeared to me to be too complicated and clumsy. His features are thinner and sharper than I had imagined to be those of Newton. In his hand is a prism, and his benignant countenance is directed upwards with a look of profound and abstracted meditation.

“Such was his brow and look serene,
His serious gait and musing mein,
When taught on eagle’s wings to fly,
He trac’d the wonders of the sky.”

On the pedestal is an inscription from Lucretius,

“Qui genus humanum ingenio superavit.”

Porson, the great critic and scholar, lies buried on the left of Newton; and behind the statue of the philosopher is a large and handsome tablet, in honour of the memory of his friend Roger Cotes, a man of kindred genius, and fellow of the same college. He died at the early age of 34; and in reference to the loss which the university had sustained by his death, Newton is said to have remarked, “If he had lived, we

should have known something." The inscription on the tablet states him to have been,

"Inferior only to the great Newton,"

and

"The second hope and contemporary ornament of this society,"

and

"Possessed, in addition to the highest reputation for learning,
Of all the advantages of morals and virtue."

He died in 1716.

We had the pleasure of breakfasting with our clerical friend, T*****, of Peter's College, in the identical room, as he informed us, which had been occupied by the poet Gray, who was a member of this college. The apartments are very genteel and comfortable, and we were served with a good English breakfast. At 12, we called by previous invitation, on Professor Cumming, at his rooms in Trinity College. His accommodations are also spacious and well furnished with books, and various other scientific ornaments. He politely accompanied us to the library of Trinity College, a truly superb structure, forming the west end of one of the great courts. It is 200 feet in length and 40 in breadth. The steps of the great staircase, which leads to this grand apartment, are of black marble, and the wainscotting of cedar. The south end is terminated by a window of painted glass. The subject is the presentation of Sir Isaac Newton, to his present majesty, George III. who is seated under a canopy, with a laurel chaplet in his hand. Below the throne is Lord Bacon in his robes, with a pen and book, as if preparing to register the reward to be bestowed on Sir Isaac. The original drawing, executed by Cipriani, cost 100 guineas, and

is here preserved. The library is floored with marble, and is ornamented, at each end, with busts, of Ray, Willoughby, Bacon, and Newton, by Roubiliac. The books are divided into thirty classes, and disposed in cases of oak. On the top of each case is a marble bust of some distinguished literary character. A number of interesting manuscripts are also preserved in this library, among which is a folio of Milton's papers, containing, with other things, the original copy of the *Masque of Comus*. We saw, also, a collection of Newton's letters. They are written in a plain, but good, legible hand. A number of curious antiques, natural and artificial, are also arranged in this spacious building.

We visited to-day, the senate house and university library. The former is an elegant building of Portland stone, consisting of one principal room, more than 100 feet in length. The galleries are capable, it is said, of containing nearly 1000 persons. In this room degrees are conferred, officers and magistrates are elected, and other public business transacted. The heads of the university, i. e. all the doctors and masters of arts, are a corporate body, endowed with legislative powers, and called the *senate*. No language but Latin is permitted to be spoken at any official meeting in the senate house. The statutes require three years study in the university, before the student can be capable of taking the degree of bachelor of arts, and four years more for a master of arts; seven years after that he may commence bachelor of divinity, and then five years more are required to take the degree of doctor in divinity. The nobility are entitled to degrees without waiting the statutable time.

The vice chancellor's chair is at the upper end of the senate house. This apartment contains four marble statues, viz. of George I., George II., Duke of Somerset, and the Right Honourable W. Pitt. The latter is one of the most admirable specimens of statuary I have ever seen. It was executed by Nollekins, and is considered as his *chef-d'œuvre*. Upwards of £7000 was subscribed by different members of the university, to pay for it.

The university library consists of four rooms, and contains more than 90,000 volumes. The famous statue of the goddess Ceres, brought from the temple at Eleusis, by Dr. Clarke, is placed in the vestibule of this building. It weighs a ton and a half. This library is rich in ancient and illuminated manuscripts. A copy of the Koran, an eastern manuscript, remarkable for the beauty of its writing,—a finely illuminated Persian manuscript, written in 1388, being a treatise on astronomy and natural history, and embellished with drawings of beasts, birds, and reptiles, some of them as fresh as if lately finished,—are among the most remarkable in the collection. The latter volume is superbly bound. It cost in Persia £100. In another part of the library is a manuscript of the Gospels and Acts of the Apostles, given to the university by Theodore Beza, and believed to be as old as any manuscript extant. The library contains also an Egyptian mummy; and a cast from the face of Charles XII. of Sweden, taken a few hours after his death. It shows the nature of the wound by which he fell, and from which it appears probable that he was shot by the officer who conducted him in

his survey of the enemy's works ; and thus, after a meteoric career of fury and devastation,

“ He left a name at which the world grew pale,
To point a moral or adorn a tale.”

There are also in the same collection, casts of Pitt, Fox, and Percival, taken by Nollekins immediately after death.

The botanic garden of the university contains between three and four acres of ground. Among the plants are many rare species from the east.

In the evening we heard the religious exercises in the chapel of Trinity College. As this is not term time, the number of students is probably much less than it is during the term. They all wore, on this occasion, a white mantle over their other dress. The music of this chapel is admitted to be of the most exquisite and sublime style of performance. It consisted this evening of the psalms of David, chaunted in prose, with other usual church exercises. But fine as the tones were, I was scarcely able to realize from the service, any feelings of religious solemnity, nor can I suppose that the students were, generally, in a disposition much better adapted to the performance of pious worship. I remarked that several of them, while on their knees, were whispering and smiling with each other.

11th. We were amused this morning with a company of country people, who came into the court of the inn, fantastically decorated with ribbands, and dancing to the sound of a musical instrument. Among them were two women, who capered before our windows along with the others. This it appears, is an

anniversary called Plough Monday, on which the boys and girls from the neighbouring farms, have the privilege of coming into Cambridge for the purpose of amusing the citizens by their drolleries, and of reminding the collegians, that they are indebted to the plough for all their solid comforts. They calculate, of course, to be paid for their trouble, and most of the citizens make it a point to give them something. One or more of the companies drew a large plough through the streets. Some of them were dressed in coats made of straw, with a crown of the same material on their heads; in short, the town has been kept in a bustle most of the day, by these merry-makers, who, though they levy an annual tax on the good natured inhabitants, doubtless contrive to leave much of their money behind them, for articles of holiday purchase

In waiting for the coach to convey us to London, we received a visit from two of the Fellows of Peter House, whose friendly and social manners could not but inspire me with favourable impressions of the temper which prevails in the society of this distinguished community of learning. To the Fellows and Professors to whom we have been introduced, my acknowledgments are especially due, for their kind and obliging attentions.

The whole number of members on the boards of the university, for the present year, is 3444; of these 955 are in Trinity college, and 819 in St. John's. But so insufficient are the colleges and halls, to accommodate all those who resort to Cambridge for instruction, that there are in the town, as the tutor of Peter House informed me, three hundred boarding houses. Hence

it would appear that another university is wanting; which, should it ever be undertaken, will probably receive its location in one of the northern counties. The two universities are powerful instruments in the hands of government, and are, doubtless, very influential in wielding the political destinies of the nation. The gifts and emoluments of the church are distributed principally to those who have received their education in these schools; and these tangible and material benefits are, as one of the clerical gentlemen acknowledged, among the chief inducements for taking orders, at least with a majority of those who enter upon the ministerial office. Since the late peace, a great number of persons from the army and navy, have entered as students of divinity, relying on family influence for promotion; and, in consequence of such influence, no inconsiderable number have been promoted, and over the heads, too, of others who have devoted many years to the duties of the university. Surely no wound can be inflicted upon religion, more deep and deadly, than to place a man, by the mere dictum of hierarchical authority, in the station of a Christian minister, who is just reeking from the camp, and who has no qualifications, either of head or heart, for the solemn office which he thus presumes to fill; and probably no taste for any of its accompaniments, except for the loaves and fishes.

The annual income of the university is about £16,000, arising from stock, manors, lands, fees for degrees, government annuity for surrendering the privilege of printing almanacs, &c. Its annual expenditure is about £12,000 disbursed to the various officers, professors, library, taxes, donations, &c.

The examination for degrees in this university are almost altogether in mathematics and natural philosophy. Within the colleges there are some examinations in the easy classics. About three medical degrees are conferred here every year. At Oxford the examinations are chiefly in the classics.*

The town of Cambridge has a population of about 12,000. It is supplied with water by a conduit erected at the expense of Thomas Hobson, one of the inhabitants, who is famous for having given rise to the common or vulgar saying of "Hobson's choice:—*this*, or none." He was a carrier between London and Cambridge, and the principal person who furnished the students with horses. He made it an unalterable rule that every horse should have an equal share of rest and fatigue, and would never let an animal go out of his regular turn. A member of the university has eulogised this benevolent man, as Pope did the man of Ross, and in numbers equally harmonious. In reference to his horses, the following is an extract:—

"Nor let the learn'd disdain the poet's voice,
Who fain would sing in verse old *Hobson's choice* ;
He let out horses for the public hire,
But not at each capricious youth's desire :
Each horse in turn partook of work and rest,
As mercy prompted in his feeling breast ;
And when a customer would take his ride,
And wishing for his favourite horse, applied,
Fill'd with humanity, in friendly tone
Old Hobson cried, " You must take *this*, or none."

From an artificial hill on the border of the town we had a charming view of Cambridge, with the va-

* In 1822, both Divinity and Classical Literature were, by a vote of the Senate, added to the list of subjects for examination in the University of Cambridge.

rious buildings of the university. The town of Ely, with its famous cathedral, was also distinctly seen. Near this hill is a new prison, erected on the same plan as the prison at Bury St. Edmunds. We were readily admitted to the interior, and found in it the same style of neatness, and the same excellent discipline as in the last named prison. The two keepers are brothers. In this prison are fifty-five convicts, five of whom are females. Water is forced from a well to a reservoir under the roof, and is thence distributed by pipes over the house. The well which supplies the reservoir is 140 feet deep, but when the water was once attained, it rose nearly to the surface, where it still remains.

Nothing occurred to my notice, which would induce the belief, that there is a greater degree of licentiousness among the students in this university, than in other places, where young men are collected in large numbers, in collegiate institutions. In this respect, one of the tutors assured me, that there had been recently a very decided improvement, and that the discipline of the place is now such as to ensure the preservation of order, without embarrassment or difficulty. That breaches of morality do sometimes occur, disgraceful to the perpetrators, is hardly to be expected, when the propensities of human nature, and the almost unbounded wealth which many of the students have at their command, are taken into the account. Upon such, however, whatever occasional disorders they may be guilty of, it is scarcely to be doubted, that the restrictions of the university, and the obligations they are under to comply with its laws, have a salutary influence upon their future lives :

and that the effect of these great schools is, upon the whole, favourable to the progress of morality in the nation. It would be a curious and interesting subject of inquiry, to ascertain, with as much accuracy as possible, the relative morality of Oxford and Cambridge; as it is well known, that in the former university, the collegiate studies are directed with paramount assiduity to moral philosophy, and the higher range of classical learning; while in Cambridge, mathematics and natural philosophy have a transcendent influence. As far as my own very slight opportunities have extended, of forming an opinion on this subject, I should assign to this university, the higher degree of moral respectability. But I state this rather as a surmise than an opinion, and should it be correct, I know not how far the preference may be due to the superior discipline and government enforced at Cambridge.

It would be unnatural, and perhaps impossible, for a stranger, educated in the English language, to leave Cambridge, after passing through its venerable halls and colleges, and traversing its shades and gardens, without feeling a degree of reverence for a place which has fostered and matured the genius of Bacon, Newton, and Milton, of Cranmer, Porteus and Paley, of Pitt, Coke, Porson, and a host of other great men, whose attainments have shed so much lustre upon the human mind, and whose writings have done so much to extend the sphere of moral and physical truth.

12th. Unable to obtain places in the day coach, and in haste to reach London, we took seats in the mail, and were obliged to perform most of the journey in the night. The road led through the towns of Ware

and Edmonton, places which must remind the numerous admirers of one of the best of modern poets, of his lively tale of John Gilpin. A painting taken from the story, is exposed on the side of the principal public house in the last named town.

LETTER XXVII.

London, 2d month, (Feb.) 1st, 1819.

MY DEAR *****,

ARRIVED once more in this "mart of all the earth," I find, that the impression which it makes, after a temporary residence on the continent, and especially after a recent acquaintance with the principal cities of Holland, is not more favourable than upon my first arrival from America. But still, as the favourite abode of science, learning, and virtue, of the highest order; of intellectual activities which diffuse the light of knowledge and truth through innumerable channels to the remotest regions of the earth; it has attractions which no other place can strictly be said to possess. I purpose to spend a few weeks in it, to complete the survey of its most important institutions, and in yielding to the delightful attractions of friendship and social intercourse, and then to bend my way toward the Scottish capital.

16th. At the breakfast table of M*****, I met this morning with several members of the London "Society for promoting Universal Peace." The society is not numerous, but the united inquiries of its members, have brought to light numbers of people

in different parts of the kingdom, of various sects of religion and ranks in life, whose principles are entirely opposed to war, on the grounds of Christian obligation. To excite a more serious and general investigation of this deeply important question, is the object of this society, in common with those of America. Among its zealous and useful members, is J. Clarkson, brother of the philanthropist. He resides in London, and is justly esteemed for his open and candid disposition, and the benevolence of his character.

I observed yesterday in passing up Snowhill, near Newgate, a vast crowd of people following a large cart or wagon, in which were placed erect, five or six shapeless objects, which for a considerable time I took to be pillars of mud. I soon discovered, however, that they were human beings, covered from head to feet with the dirt and filth of the streets, received from the incessant peltings of the mob. These devoted wretches had been sentenced for their crimes, to a public exposure on the pillory, and during their removal to Newgate from Clerkenwell sessions, they were subjected to this ignominious treatment by the populace, without any restraint from the ministers of justice. They had no better resource than to stand perfectly still, and receive upon their faces as well as backs, the ceaseless accumulations of mud, from beings, probably, not much above them in moral elevation. This kind of treatment may have been contemplated as part of the sentence of condemnation; but such a degrading exposure cannot but tend, as I conceive, to brutalize the mind, not only of the victims themselves, but of the multitude who are con-

cerned in inflicting the punishment. It would not, I verily believe, be tolerated in any city in the United States.

One of the most serious inconveniences of a residence in the neighbourhood of London, is the constant apprehension and danger of nightly depredations. The whole road from London to Tottenham, (five miles,) is lighted, and guarded by watchmen; notwithstanding which, it is not uncommon to hear of assaults and burglaries in its immediate neighbourhood. At the house of a friend, a few miles from the city, where I have spent many agreeable hours, it is the regular business of an elderly female servant, in addition to the ordinary precaution of locks, to barricade the doors and windows every night with chairs, and to hang bells in situations which would alarm the family, in case of intrusion. Beside these, a large bell is suspended over an out-building, which, in case of alarm, can be rung for the purpose of calling assistance from the neighbours. In such an exigency, a reward of half a guinea is offered to the person who shall first arrive, five shillings to the second, and something to those who follow. My friend very pleasantly informed me, that on the occasion of a strange noise in the house, some time ago, one of the family rang the great bell, which collected so many of the neighbours, as to produce no inconsiderable draught upon his purse. It was found in the morning that the noise had been occasioned by a rat.

The comparative freedom from those troubles enjoyed in the vicinity of our cities, is no trifling cause of congratulation, and argues much, I cannot but believe, in favour of our milder system of penal inflic-

tions. The convictions for forgery, are at this time awfully numerous. A humane and intelligent gentleman, whom I met in the coach in my ride to town this morning, informed me that he had been unable to sleep last night, on account of the distress he felt from having been yesterday at the Old Bailey, when a man was convicted of having passed five counterfeit notes. But he candidly acknowledged that he had not seen any practicable means of producing a reform in the penal code.

18th. At the medical school of St. Bartholomew's hospital, I heard an introductory lecture on anatomy, from Abernethy, the most distinguished teacher, I believe, of this branch of knowledge, in Great Britain. It was altogether a written lecture, consisting chiefly of a history of the science. His manner is clear and correct, though not remarkably animated. He is past the middle age.

This hospital furnishes an excellent practical school for students of physic. It contains about 4000 patients within the walls, and about the same number are attended to out of the house. All poor persons injured by accident, may be taken to this hospital at any hour of the day or night, without previous recommendation. This hospital was founded by Henry VIII. It comprehends four large buildings surrounding a square court. The grand staircase was painted by Hogarth. Dr. Ratcliffe left £100 per annum, to this institution, for improving the diet of the patients, and £100 for providing linen. There are several good paintings in St. Bartholomew's, particularly one by Sir J. Reynolds, of surgeon Pott, who was many years attached to this institution.

Near St. Bartholomew's is an institution called Christ's Hospital, which is very honourable to the charity of its founders. It is devoted exclusively to the maintenance and education of poor children. This establishment was, in popish times, a convent of Grey Friars; but being surrendered to Henry VIII. he granted the monastery to the city, for the relief of the poor, and in the time of Edward VI. it became part of an extensive system of charitable relief, and was appropriated to its present object. About 1200 children are now supported on this foundation. The boys wear a very ancient dress, consisting of a blue cloth coat, yellow under coat, yellow worsted stockings, and a flat, round, worsted, black bonnet, with the hair cut short. Their fare is plain and wholesome. They sleep in wards, kept with great attention to cleanliness. Five hundred of the younger children are sent to a school at Hertford, established by the governors. The education which the boys receive, fits them for counting-houses, and trades. The girls are all educated at Hertford. The expenditure of this hospital, is £30,000 per annum! of which £1300 is paid in salaries. The revenues arising from royal and private donations, in houses and lands, though very extensive, are insufficient, without voluntary subscriptions, to meet the present demands of the hospital.

The metropolis has, among its very numerous charities, a Foundling Hospital, a handsome building, pleasantly situated on the north side of the town. Its object was originally the same as that which still supports similar institutions, on the continent; but the abuses that were practised upon this charity, induced

the governors to contract their views, and finally to admit no children, that are not found, after due investigation, by a committee, to be suitable objects for the institution. About 400 children are maintained here. They have a good garden and commodious play ground. The chapel is in the centre; the east wing being appropriated to girls, and the west to boys. From the popularity of the preachers selected for this chapel, the pews let at a high rent. This income, with the collections made at the door, amounts, it is said, to £2500 per annum. The kitchen is constructed on Count Rumford's plan, which is stated to produce a saving of twenty-five chaldron of coals annually. A number of very fine Scripture pieces, from West and others, ornament this interesting establishment. It is, under its existing regulations, considered as free from the objections which lie against the hospitals *des enfans trouvés* of France and Italy.

There are, within the limits of London, at least sixteen dispensaries; by the agencies of which, it is calculated that 50,000 poor persons are annually supplied with medicine and advice gratis, while one-third of that number are attended at their own habitations.

In reference to such unbounded charities, and to the piety and religious dedication whence they spring, well might the Christian poet exclaim,

“ That salt preserves thee.”

In returning from the continent, I find the pleasantness and wholesomeness of the light French wines very ill exchanged for English beer and London port. The great convenience too of the Parisian *caffés* and

restaurateurs is much missed in London. There are numerous places, however, under the coarser name of soup or eating-houses, where a hearty luncheon can be obtained, at any hour, at a moderate price. I have once or twice availed myself of a place of this kind in Old Bailey street, which is very numerously attended. Though very inferior in neatness and cookery to similar houses in France, the food is served up with despatch, and with a decorum which satisfies the appetite, without exposing it to the temptation of too great excess. W*****, the proprietor, has, I am informed, made a fortune, and lives mostly at his country-seat; but feeling the force of early habits and attachments, he frequently comes to town in his carriage. puts on his apron, and delights in serving his customers.

25th. One of the trophies of Waterloo, which has excited a great share of popular curiosity in England, is Bonaparte's travelling carriage, with the various utensils for eating, sleeping, writing, &c. with which it was furnished. Having gone the rounds of public exhibition in England and Scotland, it is now kept for show in an apartment of Bullock's Museum, where I have just seen it. It is surprisingly adapted to the multifarious purposes of a warrior who is constantly on the march. Scarcely an article of apparatus appertaining to the table or the bed chamber of a private gentleman could be named which had not its appropriate place in this imperial machine, and that too without rendering it in appearance much larger than a common private carriage. Its exterior is very neat, but so plain, that it might easily be mistaken for the vehicle of a common citizen. When every

thing was in its place, a stranger might be conveyed in it a great distance, without suspecting that it contained much more than the ordinary conveniences of a traveller; yet by an easy alteration it became a bed in which the great Emperor might repose at full length, or an arm-chair, a writing-desk, or a dinner-table, at the pleasure of the commander. It is an exemplification of the *multum in parvo*, surpassing any thing I could readily have imagined to be possible, in the way of a travelling carriage. The cups, spoons, plates, &c. are also models of convenience. They were chiefly of gold and silver plate. His fire-lock, pistols, and other arms were also within his reach. Many of the articles it contained, were exposed to public sale in London, and brought extravagant prices.

I went this evening, at half past eight, to hear a lecture from Thelwall, a person who has acquired no inconsiderable celebrity in England, as an orator and critic in style and elocution. He receives his audience in the library of his house in Lincoln's Inn-fields. About forty persons were present this evening of both sexes. He is certainly an eloquent speaker, and his criticisms appeared to be well calculated to excite a taste in his hearers for the higher beauties of composition; though I was inclined to give him more credit for genius than judgment, both as a declaimer and a critic. His manner is vehement and theatrical. He raised Shakespear to the highest rank of British *prose* writers, and cited Hamlet's advice to the players as a model of superior excellence in prose composition. The poetry of Spencer and Denman he ranked among the finest in our language. Southey too is a favourite; and the reviewers that

have condemned him, were, in their turn, roughly handled. He pronounces with great distinctness, especially the consonants, and above all the letter *r*. The sound of the last syllable of compound words, he prolongs more than usual. He appeared to follow implicitly the orthoëpy of Walker. His great merit consists in having discovered a method of correcting defective pronunciation, arising from organic impediments, or long confirmed bad habits, such as lisping, stuttering, &c. In this important art he has been, I believe, eminently successful. His *Letter to Cline*, the surgeon, (an octavo volume) is worth the perusal of every one who is interested in the cure of these defects.

26th. The principal school of medicine in London is at Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospitals, in the borough of Southwark, a name given to that part of the town which is south of the Thames. I was present to-day at a lecture on chemistry, by Dr. Marcet, whom I met at Geneva, and who is one of the teachers in this school. It is not a little remarkable, that a Swiss gentleman, (who, though well acquainted with the English language, has still to encounter some difficulties in pronunciation,) should be chosen as one of the teachers in the first medical school of the metropolis. It is a fact which must be regarded as creditable to the impartiality of the managers, and to the merit of Dr. M. as a man of science.

The two last named hospitals are contiguously situated. St. Thomas's is a royal foundation, similar to St. Bartholomew's, and contains between four and five hundred beds. Guy's hospital has accommodations for 320 beds, and relieves nearly 2000 out-patients

every year. This edifice, with its endowments, is a noble monument of the munificence of a private individual. Thomas Guy, the founder, was a London bookseller. He expended £20,000 upon the building, and at his death, left for its support, the vast sum of £220,000. This bountiful man was, besides, a great benefactor to the adjoining hospital, to which he added three wards, and gave for their maintenance £100 a year for eleven years. He was a member of Parliament for Tamworth, his native borough, where he also erected an alms-house with a library, which he supported during his life; and at his death, bequeathed an income of £125 for their future maintenance. He manifested a similar spirit of beneficence towards his relations, and bequeathed £1000 for discharging such poor prisoners as could be released for the sum of £5. In consequence of this bequest more than six hundred persons were liberated from prison.

The bedsteads of Guy's hospital are of iron, but without tops. I noticed one useful appendage which is worthy of imitation, viz. a wooden pin suspended by a rope from the ceiling, immediately over the patient's bed. By taking hold of this pin, he can raise and turn himself with greater ease and comfort. A small lunatic asylum, for twenty female patients, has been attached to this hospital, and is preserved in very neat condition. It possesses likewise, a good chemical laboratory. A statue of the benevolent founder has been erected in one of the courts.

My first interview with Alderman Wood, since returning to London, produced an invitation to dinner to-day, at his house in South Audley-street. I met, in his

family, with the same frankness of manners, which I had found in them during our journeyings on the continent. He lives much in the same style as the most respectable merchants in New-York and Philadelphia; genteel and ample, but without the parade of great expenditure. At the table, besides our mutual friend W. of Philadelphia, were one of the masters of Winchester school, two clergymen, one of whom had been chaplain to the Lord Mayor, a doctor of the army, and a brother of the alderman, with his wife. Though concerned in business as a merchant, Alderman Wood, has held a seat in Parliament, for the city of London, ever since his mayoralty. He informed me that the city has an income of £100,000 a year, but that the improvements which the corporation are always endeavouring to effect, produce an annual expenditure to a vast amount. The street which is now opening in front of Carlton house, will cost, he supposes, a million and a half sterling. This it is true, is a more gigantic scheme of the kind, than it is usual to attempt. He appears to be fully of opinion, that the police might effect much more than it has done toward the suppression of immorality, of almost every kind. The streets were nearly cleared of beggars, during the term of his chief magistracy.

30th. Dr. L*****, who is surgeon to the Bethlem hospital, one of the chief establishments for lunatics, in London, conducted a friend and myself to-day, through that extensive institution. It is a new and superb edifice, erected about three years since, at an expense of £120,000. It has accommodations for 200 patients, with an additional building for *lunatic convicts*

which contains 41 of that description. The main building is 580 feet long, and, with the ground intended for the exercise of the patients, occupies twelve acres. The number of patients in the house at the time of our visit was 194. A proposition to introduce among them some religious exercise on the Sabbath, was laid before the physicians, and disapproved of, on the ground of its tending, in all probability, to aggravate, rather than to meliorate their mental distraction. The objection was overruled by the governors, and the superintendent, who appears to possess qualities well adapted to his station, is now in the practice of collecting the patients in a room which serves as a chapel, and reads to them such portions of the church service, as he thinks best suited to the occasion. No unpleasant consequences have yet resulted from it, but on the contrary, he informed me, that it appeared to compose their minds, and was evidently an agreeable exercise to the greater number of them. Among the lunatic convicts, was Hatfield, a man who fired at the king in one of the theatres. He is considered as decidedly insane, though he occasions little or no trouble to the keepers, and employs himself in making straw baskets. Several of the convicts were females, among whom we were shown Margaret Nicholson, who also attempted the life of the king, in the year 1786. How agreeable is it to observe such instances of humanity;—to find two persons who were guilty of the highest possible crime in the eye of the law,—premeditated regicide,—not only allowed to live, but supported in comfort by the government itself—a government remarkable, too, for the severity of its statutes against inferior classes of crime. Such

triumphs of law and humanity, doubtless proceed from the precepts of Christianity, and might be sought for in vain, in countries where the mild doctrines of our religion, have not infused their spirit into the breasts of lawgivers and jurors.

None of the patients in this hospital were in fetters, except one man who was chained, and a woman who had on a strait waistcoat. The cells occupy but one side of the gallery, which, in each story, is very spacious. No heat is allowed in the cells, but the gallery is well warmed by heated air from a stove below. The beds of the patients are of straw, but well supplied with blankets.

One man was pointed out to us, among the criminal lunatics, who, in a single year, had learned to read, and to write a neat hand, by the instruction he had gained from the other crazy patients. We found him engaged in copying a chapter of the Bible. He had been condemned to this asylum, for killing a woman in a fit of insanity.

There is no classification in this hospital, nor is any attempt made to relieve the distresses of mental alienation, by the introduction of judicious employment. This, I know, requires great care; but it has been resorted to in some places with happy results, and it might in all probability, in every institution of this nature, under certain restrictions, be adopted with advantage. Those considerations appear to me to apply with rather peculiar force to the Bethlem hospital, for it is designed solely for the *restoration* of the insane; and if, after a year's treatment, no amendment appears, the patients are returned to their friends.

In no hospital that I have seen, has there been more money expended for the purpose of architectural elegance, and none of which the cost of erection has been so great, in comparison with the extent of its accommodations.

We dined with Dr. L*****, in his rooms in the College of Physicians, a large and handsome building in Warwick lane. This college has the sole authority to grant licences to practice physic, and every person is forbidden to practice without its sanction. The penalty imposed by law, against those who violate this provision, is £5 per month; but such are the difficulties and expenses of prosecution, that not very many of the charlatans are disturbed in their profession. Some of them, indeed, prefer to pay the fine regularly, rather than abandon their employment. One of the most notorious of these quacks, Dr. L. informed us, was summoned by the college to give an account of his doings; but instead of yielding to the summons, he defaced the paper very ignominiously, and sent it back to the college. He was immediately prosecuted and imprisoned, but the process cost the institution no less than £300. It would appear, therefore, that these bold pretenders of the healing art, are not to be suppressed by legal exactions. Among an ignorant populace, they will therefore continue to thrive; but it is some consolation to reflect, that their baneful influence will diminish in proportion to the extension of good medical instruction, and that the facilities of education in the best medical schools are now so general as to lessen the inducements to illegal practice. The public mind too, is becoming more and more enlightened on this important subject,

and the difficulties of an unlicensed practice, must of course, I should imagine, continually increase.

31st. At dinner to-day at Dr. Marcet's in Russel-square, I met several Swiss gentlemen, and Dr. Roget, an enlightened physician and chemist, and known as the author of several essays of merit on scientific subjects. He was a connexion and intimate friend of Sir Samuel Romilly, whose dwelling was adjacent to that of Dr. Marcet. His recent melancholy exit appears to be deeply deplored by the nation, and feelingly so, by his intimate friends and acquaintance. He left seven children, one of whom is a daughter of eighteen. The direful deed is fully attributed to a fit of insanity, brought on by the powerful excitement of his mind, occasioned by some important questions which were then before Parliament, and aggravated by the recent loss of his wife. Dr. R. has found among his papers, a great number of his letters written to his father about the year 1786, on subjects which rendered them very interesting.

I have already mentioned Dr. Marcet's wife, as the author of the popular work, entitled *Conversations on Chemistry*. It was written, as she informed me to-day, just after her marriage, and before the birth of her children, of whom she has two, both daughters, about ten and eight years of age. She possesses a strength of understanding much above mediocrity, as her conversation, as well as writings, bear sufficient testimony. The subject of a comparison between French and English servants, was adverted to at the table; Dr. M. who is well acquainted with both, prefers the English. They are more exact, prompt, and skilful in their duties, though at the same time

they are more particular with respect to the treatment they receive, and are more easily offended. The French are better natured, but less punctual and efficient. The very prompt attention, and genteel appearance of English servants, in good families, wherever I have been, are truly remarkable. If the contrast between them and those of our own country, arises from the republicanism of our habits, we must bear the evil with patience; but I am inclined to think, that it is owing chiefly to circumstances, over which time will gradually exert a remedial control. The defect, in America, is not, I suspect, altogether on the part of the servants. I have been nearly as much impressed, when in good society, with the gentle and open demeanour of the master and mistress, towards the servants, and the tone of confidence and kindness in which the latter are addressed, as I have with the cheerful and ready obedience of the servants themselves.

Dr. M. has a neat chemical laboratory in his own house.* He accompanied me in the evening to Sir Joseph Banks', where we found a numerous and agreeable company of the *savans* of the metropolis and other places. Dr. Wollaston was, as is very common, one of the number. Few philosophers of the present day stand higher in the scale of scientific merit. His physiognomy is indicative of great acuteness, as well as strength of reflection. In adverting

* This able philosopher and very amiable man died on the 19th of October, 1822, to the grief of a numerous circle of friends both in England and Switzerland. He had just returned to London from a visit to Scotland, and was about to remove to Geneva, his native town. His death was announced to the Philosophical Society of Geneva by Dr. De la Rive, in feeling and affectionate terms.

to the ingenious mechanical inventions of our countryman P*****, in terms of approbation, he expressed to me a decided belief, that a method would be discovered, at some future time, of engraving bank notes in a way that will render counterfeits quite impossible. As one of a committee appointed by Parliament to investigate this subject, his judgment I considered worthy of particular deference.

LETTER XXVIII.

London, 2d month, (Feb.) 14, 1819.

THE number of medical students that resort to London to attend the schools and walk the hospitals, is computed at 8 or 900. I went with my friend Dr. P. to-day to hear Astley Cooper, who holds probably the highest rank, as a surgical instructor, of any person in the kingdom. His person is good, his voice strong and clear, and he spoke without notes. He has a turn for humour, and his memory is stored with so many anecdotes, appropriate to his subject, that his course is rendered very amusing to the students, as well as instructive. On this occasion he kept their risible faculties in almost constant exercise; but the topic upon which he was treating, gave, it is true, a more than ordinary scope for facetious illustration. I heard also a lecture by Professor Millington, in the school of this hospital. He holds the station in natural philosophy which has been so well

filled by W. A****, who is now travelling on the continent, in the cause of an enlarged philanthropy. Professor M. appears to be an able teacher. He has devoted himself to science, *con amore*; and by the efforts of a strong native genius, has acquired great facility in delivering instruction in the various branches of physical science. He is the professor of experimental philosophy, also, in the Royal institution in Albemarle street.

3d. I went this morning to that vast temple of money changers, the Bank of England, and was escorted through the greater number of its principal apartments. It occupies a whole square, and covers several acres of ground, between Threadneedle and Throgmorton streets, near the junction of the former with Cornhill. Strangers, when properly introduced, are taken through its various offices, with great politeness, by some of the officers in attendance. Its present capital is nearly fifteen millions of pounds sterling, and the number of clerks amounts to eleven or twelve hundred. As the bank has the whole management of the government funds, an immensity of business is transacted within its walls, by the sale and transfer of stock, by brokers, jobbers, and other persons. These people meet in a spacious room, called, from its circular shape, the Rotunda, where, during business hours, the crowd, and bustle, and eagerness at catching a bargain, produce a scene truly ludicrous, accompanied as it is, by one continued and undistinguishable sound of human voices. So great is the danger of receiving counterfeit notes, that every person who presents a note for specie, has to write his name upon it. Specie is paid out by weight, and

never by counting the pieces. A certain *number* is put into one scale, and these are counterbalanced by shovelling a quantity into the other scale. Gold, as well as silver, is paid out in the same manner. This method is practised for the sake of expedition, and it is said to be perfectly accurate, not even a six-penny piece being lost or gained in a large amount of silver thus paid out. The number of offices in the bank is surprisingly great. In that in which the one and two pound notes are registered, there are 150 clerks; and 100 in that in which notes of five pounds and upwards are entered. The stock offices are also large and numerous. One room contains thirty-four men who are employed in nothing but the inspection of notes. The strong-room, which contains the iron closets is never left without a guard. Connected, as this great establishment is, with all the fiscal concerns of the British government, there is probably no institution in the world, which has such an influence upon the condition of mankind, and the progress of human events, as the Bank of England.

4th. Provided with a letter of introduction to the assayer of the mint, Dr. P. and myself, this morning, visited that institution. We were politely received by the assayer, who being particularly engaged, introduced us to D. M*****, with whose name, as an able scientific inquirer into the means of improving and perfecting the reduction of ores, and other researches in metallurgic chemistry, I had been long acquainted. He now holds a respectable station in the mint. In the rolling-room the workmen were employed in heating and rolling copper.

The plates are cut into strips, with astonishing rapidity, by circular shears, moved by the steam-engine. The fly-wheel of this engine moves horizontally. The copper pieces for pence, are cut out by punches in the usual way, twelve of them being arranged in a circle and moved by the engine. The silver, for coinage, is melted in iron pots, which hold several hundred weight each. These are lifted into a machine, which, by means of rack-work, inverts the pots, and pours the silver into moulds. In the stamping-room there were ten or twelve dies for crown-pieces. This, in its latest modification, is a very beautiful coin.

Very little work is now doing, in consequence, I believe, of the scarcity of bullion. The various apartments of the mint, with all the works connected with the coinage, manifest an attention to neatness, very creditable to the care and taste of the directors. It is superior in this respect to the similar institutions of Paris and Milan. The buildings of the mint are new and elegant. They are situated in one corner of Tower-hill, and I ought perhaps to mention, that they are inaccessible to strangers, without a special introduction to one of the officers.

From the mint I proceeded to Barclay's brewery, situated in Southwark, not far from London Bridge. The director of this establishment, to whom I was introduced by a letter from one of the Barclays, put me in the way of seeing its various parts, and communicated such information as I wished, respecting its extent and operations. If any private concern in England, or in the world, is entitled to the epithet of *vastness*, this is one. It covers about eight acres of ground, and manufactured last year 340,000 barrels of 36 gal-

lons each. The buildings which contain the vats, and the vats themselves, are enormous. The largest of the latter contain each 4000 barrels. The average number of vats is nearly one hundred. A steam-engine of twenty-two horse power is employed in driving the machinery, and about two hundred men are engaged in the various works of the establishment; while it is supposed that the number of persons dependent upon it without, in the sale and transportation of the beer, is three or four thousand. The three coppers in which the beer is boiled, hold each 150 barrels.

Twenty-five gentlemen once dined in one of them, after which fifty of the workmen got in and regaled themselves. One hundred and ninety pounds of beef steaks, were thus consumed in one day, in this novel kind of dining room. The tuns in which the beer ferments, hold 1400 barrels each. The carbonic acid in one of them stood about three and a half feet above the liquor, and poured over the side in a continued stream. A candle is instantly extinguished on being placed near the outer edge of this receptacle, and on holding one's face near it, a sharp pungent sensation is felt in the mouth and fauces, not unlike that produced by ardent spirits. An immersion of a few moments would be sufficient to occasion a suspension of voluntary motion.

One hundred and sixty horses are kept on the premises, for the purpose, chiefly, of transporting the materials to and from different parts of the city. A finer collection of animals employed in one concern, I imagine, is no where to be seen.

This is, upon the whole, I believe, the largest brewery in London. It formerly belonged to Thrale,

the friend of Dr. Johnson, who, as executor to the estate, sold the establishment to its present owners. One of the latter informed a friend of mine, that the Doctor, in treating with them for the purchase, remarked, in his characteristic manner: "Gentlemen, it is not merely these boilers and these vats that I am selling you, but the potentiality of acquiring wealth, beyond the dreams of avarice."

5th. Except the great cathedral of St. Paul, London is not remarkable for the size, or the elegance of its churches. St. Stephen's Chapel, Walbrook, a small edifice near the mansion house, which I stopped in with a friend to-day to look at, is greatly admired for the interior beauty of its dome roof and its general finish. It is the work of Sir Christopher Wren, the great architect of St. Paul's. But the interior possesses another attraction, which, to an American at least, is greater than that of the dome. This is a remarkably fine painting, by West, of Stephen the martyr. The brethren of the deceased apostle are in the act of removing his lifeless body from the place where he was slain, while the ground all around the spot is strewed with the stones, which were the instruments of his cruel death. In point of execution, it is, if I mistake not, one of the best efforts of this prince of living artists. It is quite of a different character from the picture of Raphael in the temple of San Stephano, at Genoa, and I think it quite probable, that when time shall have mellowed down the distance of the periods of the two artists, the English picture will be deemed as valuable as the Italian.

7th. After a ride to Croydon, a town nine and a half miles south of London, in a mild and pleasant morning, I attended meeting, and dined with F. S****, a friend well known in the circles of those who, in the metropolis, are actively engaged in concerns of benevolence and public good. For services of this kind he is well qualified by his candour and open heartedness, and the strength of his Christian principles. I spent the evening and night at Carshalton, two miles from Croydon, the seat of my friend W. F. R*****, with whom and his family I had become acquainted in Paris. It will be agreeable to you to know, that in this family, as well as in nearly all those of the society of Friends, with whom I have become acquainted, it is an invariable custom, on the first day of the week, for the head of the family to read one or more chapters of the Holy Scriptures, in presence of the family and servants, before retiring to rest. It is also a very common practice to read a chapter at the breakfast table every morning. The servants were this evening called in at 10 o'clock, six women and three men, all very decently dressed. They modestly seated themselves in a row, on one side of the room, and when the reading was finished, on the closing of the book, they quietly and seriously withdrew. The supper table was then set, and after the meal, we spent the evening till past 11, in agreeable conversation. In my bed room I found a good fire burning, and, in addition to all the requisite materials for dressing, a table before the fire, furnished with paper, pens and ink. This, it will be understood, was without any suggestion on my part. Such a

minute regard to the comfort and enjoyment of visitors, is an evidence of that intelligent and liberal hospitality which prevails in the best society of this country.

8th. The house of my friend R*****, is the largest private dwelling, I have yet visited. It is 100 years old, and was either built or owned by Dr. Radcliffe, the munificent donor of the library at Oxford, which goes by his name. We breakfasted in a large room, wainscotted all round with Spanish oak, some parts of which were curiously carved. Attached to the house are fifty acres of ground, all in grass except the garden, in which I noticed a great deal of wall fruit. The grounds around the house are finely laid out, and ornamented with trees and shrubbery. A beautiful transparent lake, within the enclosure, pours its stream against a wheel, which forces the water to a reservoir on the top of a tower, whence the healthful current is conveyed by pipes to the house, and distributed to its different apartments. Parting with this kind family, my friend ordered his carriage to follow us, and walked with me to the house of his brother, a mile and a half distant from his own. Through the grounds of the latter, there runs a stream of water, in which I observed an artificial bed or island, consisting, I believe, of earth placed upon some floating support, and constructed for the purpose of raising cranberries. They appeared to be flourishing, and yielded, I was informed, a good crop of fruit. We went into a bleaching establishment owned by two brothers of my conductor. The works are so extensive as to occupy 150 acres of ground, most of which is required for spreading

the cloth. The chemical process is practised, (especially in winter,) chiefly as the means of expediting the results of the old method, and not as the main operation. The lime to be saturated with chlorine, is placed upon the wooden shelves of a closet, lined with lead, the centre of which is left open for the circulation of the gas. The materials for producing the chlorine, (salt, manganese, and sulphuric acid,) are distilled from a leaden vessel, which is surrounded with oil, and thus raised to the temperature of 310° . The bleaching salt, when prepared, is put into a large leaden back or trough, and diffused in warm water. Through this solution the cloth is passed. The medium price for bleaching, charged at this large establishment, is three half pence sterling per yard.

From this place, we proceeded in the carriage to Wandsworth, a considerable village, four miles from London, stopping in our way to see a large oil mill, owned by a relation of my friend R. The process of obtaining oil from flaxseed, is very simple. The seed is ground by large stones, turning on their edges, and the meal, at an elevated temperature, is put into bags, wrapped in a coarse cloth, and placed between upright blocks of wood, which are forced together by wedges, driven by upright stampers, lifted by the power of water or steam. The bags being thus powerfully pressed, the oil drops out, and runs through leaden pipes to a general reservoir. In this mill 10,000 quarters of seed, are ground and pressed annually. A bushel of flaxseed yields from one to one and a half gallons of oil, and the cake or pressed husk of the seed, sells from 10 to £15 per ton. It is used for feeding cattle. The owner of the mill was

not at home, but his wife, an interesting woman, would not let us depart without having the table spread, and treating us to a cold collation. Over the mantle, in the room in which we sat, was a picture containing the portraits of the mother and three of her children, in one interesting group.

I dined and took tea with G. H***** of Wandsworth, the author of several publications on education, and holding a very respectable rank in the society of Friends, for his learning, intelligence, and benevolence. It was he, as I have been informed, who first suggested to H. Brougham, M. P. the idea of moving for a Parliamentary inquiry into the abuses of education charities,—a motion which has been so ably followed up by that distinguished member, and attended with such important results.

9th. A museum of curiosities from India, Africa, and the islands of the Pacific, collected by the missionaries, that have been sent to those countries, and hence called the Missionary Museum, contains an interesting variety of their peculiar productions, natural and artificial, particularly those which relate to the religious observances of the natives. Among the natural objects, is a very fine cameleopard. A series of Chinese paintings, illustrative of the method of gathering and preparing tea, and a net made of human hair, form part of the collection.

10th. The most magnificent edifice in London, is St. Paul's cathedral. I went with several friends to-day, to take a leisurely survey of the interior of this great pile, and to obtain from the top of its lofty dome, a bird's-eye view of the largest city in Christendom. Its appearance from without, is not so impressive as

a stranger might suppose, from a previous knowledge of its dimensions, and from the descriptions usually given of it. The architecture, too, being the modern imitation of the Grecian, instead of the venerable, but now almost obsolete, Saxon or Norman, fails to excite those sensations of wonder and sublimity which unavoidably pervade the mind in beholding the ancient religious edifices of this country. St. Paul's is the only English cathedral of the Grecian style. Curiosity, however, is sufficiently excited by its massiveness, and the towering vastness of its dome, to wish for an opportunity to examine its interior, and to ascertain to what purposes the various parts of such an immense building can be appropriated, by a Protestant people.

It stands upon the foundation of an ancient edifice, which was built in the early ages of the Christian church. The last Catholic structure on this spot was demolished by the great fire of 1666, and the present building was commenced in 1675, by Sir Christopher Wren, and completed by him in 1715. Its extreme length, within the walls, is 500 feet; the breadth from north to south, through the transepts of the cross, (for it is built, like the other cathedrals, in the form of that "emblem of the Christian faith,") is 285 feet. The ground plot exceeds two acres. Its cost was a million and a half sterling, which was raised by the liberal contributions of the public, and by a tax on coals. An iron balustrade erected on a low wall, and containing, it is said, 2500 palisades, surrounds the whole building, and encloses what is properly called the churchyard. This iron fence cost £11,000, and is much praised for its beauty by the English; though

it would not bear a comparison with the enclosures of a similar kind in Paris. In the west end of the yard is a statue of Queen Anne, in whose reign the church was completed, erected on a high pedestal; but its execution is very inferior to many other statues in the city. On the top of the west front are statues of the apostles Paul, Peter and James, eleven feet in height, and on each side of them are two of the evangelists, in a recumbent posture. On each corner of the west front is a tower 287 feet high. The entablature of the pediment on this front, contains a representation of the history of St. Paul's conversion. The stupendous dome rises over the centre of the cross, supported by four massive pieces of stone work, each forty feet square. Its circumference is 430 feet. It is terminated by a lantern, which is surmounted by a ball six feet in diameter, over which is erected the cross. From the ball to the top of the cross is thirty feet. A small portion only of the vast interior is seated, and applied to public worship. The choir forms a part of the east end only. The whole space under the dome, and by far the greater part of the west end, that is to say about three-fourths of the whole interior are empty, except, that in the central part, there has latterly been erected a number of statues and monuments of distinguished characters. Most of this space, however, is filled on certain public occasions, such as that described in the preceding volume, p. 106, for which purpose temporary seats and stages are erected.

To relieve the eye in its dreary range over the vast space of the unoccupied part of the church, the government began, about the year 1796, to introduce

statues and monuments in honour of illustrious men. The first was erected to the memory of Howard. It was executed by the late John Bacon, R. A. and is a very ornamental piece of sculpture. A long epitaph, written by Samuel Whitbread, M. P., enumerates the virtues and labours of the great philanthropist. The statues of Dr. Samuel Johnson, by the same artist, of Sir William Jones, and Sir Joshua Reynolds, next attract attention; and did the whole collection consist of characters of this description,—of men whose lives have shed a moral and religious lustre upon the nation, or who have adorned their age and country by the importance of their literary labours, the gratification of viewing those beautiful works of the chisel would, to me at least, be far different from what it is. But of nearly thirty persons, whose lives or deaths are thus commemorated, the four just named are the only ones of the description alluded to. All the others, from Lord Nelson downwards, are heroes of the sword; and in this great Christian temple, one meets with daggers and great guns, British lions and Imperial eagles, with naval captains on their quarter decks, and of generals in the act of dying from wounds received in battle. One of the last of the monuments is that of General Brock, who fell at Queenstown in Upper Canada in 1812. Over the heads of some of these, are hanging the flags taken from the enemy, now reduced by time and dust, to unsightly and filthy rags. What more than this could have been expected to decorate the pantheon of ancient and pagan Rome? What, may it not be asked, has *pure Christianity* to do with deeds of this description? Has the religion of the great Author of our salvation, any

thing in it, that can sanction a feeling, at variance with universal benevolence,—of “Peace on earth, and good will to man?”

In one of the turrets of the western front, is the great clock, the bell of which weighs 11,474 pounds, and is 10 feet in diameter. The clock dial is 57 feet in circumference, and the minute hand is eight feet long. The length of the pendulum is fourteen feet. We ascended to the whispering gallery, which is an iron platform, a few feet in width, passing around the interior base of the cupola. A seat extends along this gallery next the wall, and when two persons place themselves diametrically opposite to each other, and one of them whispers, with his mouth close to the wall, and the other applies his ear near the wall, the latter hears the sound very distinctly, though a person a few feet from the speaker can hear nothing. The shutting of the door, produces a thundering sound to those who are seated opposite to it. The paintings on the inner side of the dome, are representations, by Sir James Thornhill, of the events of the life of the great apostle after whom the cathedral has been named.

From the gallery at the foot of the lantern, which was the greatest height to which we ascended, the prospect was very interesting. The city on the leeward side, was covered by a dark cloud of smoke impervious to the sight; but in all other directions it lay extended far below us, while the sounds of the busy multitude, floating in mingled vibrations, and forming a peculiar concert, faintly reached our ears. The Thames was contracted to a diminutive channel, but very much contributed with its five bridges

to beautify the prospect. The number of steps to this gallery is 534. The ball will contain six persons, and it is not uncommon for visitors to ascend into it. The weight of the ball is 5,600 pounds, and that of the cross above it, 3360. These with the lantern are supported by a cone of brickwork, within the outer dome, and without the inner one, thus ensuring the solidity of the fabric, and giving it at the same time, within and without, the appearance of a mere shell.

Lord Nelson lies interred beneath the pavement immediately under the dome.

11th. At the house of Dr. L*****, M. P. in Doctors' Commons, I met at dinner the members of a society, who are associated for the purpose of obtaining an amelioration of the penal code. Dr. L. is himself a frank, humane and learned gentleman, of great respectability, and his associates in this important concern are men of tried benevolence and worth. Among those at the table were Lord Nugent, Bazil Montague, and T. F. Foster. Lord Nugent is an active member of the House of Commons, and takes a lively concern in subjects connected with the interests of humanity. He came in after one or two of the dinner courses had been removed, and with perfect ease and pleasantness of manner agreed to take that portion of his repast in another room, and join us afterwards. The conversation turned very much upon points in relation to the criminal laws. To diffuse useful information on this subject, to demonstrate the inefficacy as well as inhumanity of many of the existing statutes, and to prepare the minds of the thinking and influential part of the nation for a parliamentary inquiry, and if possible an entire modification of the penal

code, is, I believe, the enlightened and benevolent aim of this committee.

12th. Dr. L*****, having obligingly obtained for me from Lord Holland a note of admission to the house of peers, I availed myself this afternoon of the privilege it afforded. The access to the upper house is more difficult than that to the lower; the passage to it is narrow, and the space allotted to strangers is smaller than the gallery of the house of commons. There were two or three keepers at the door, all very finely dressed, and each of them wearing, as a badge of office, a chain round his neck with a small golden appendant. But few of the lords had assembled, when I went in. The benches and walls are covered with scarlet cloth, but excepting this, the furniture is very simple. The carvings upon the frames of brown wood, which divide the walls into compartments, as well as the red tapestry which fills the space between them, represent the defeat of the Spanish Armada. The throne is only an elevated arm chair, carved and gilt, and covered with crimson velvet and silver embroidery. The woolsack, which we hear so much of, is a thick cushion covered with crimson baize. On this sits the lord chancellor or speaker, and the judges and officers of the house. The archbishops, dukes, and marquises sit on the right hand of the throne; the earls and bishops on the left, and the barons on cross benches in front. The bishops are distinguished from the other members by wearing wide white sleeves. No person is admitted into the House of Lords, dressed in boots or a great coat.

Several messages were received from the House of Commons, brought by members of that body, who

advanced to the bar of the House of Lords. The speaker left his chair, and went to meet them. One of the members then read the title of the law which had been brought up, and gave it to the speaker, who bowed three times to the members, and they three times to him, as they withdrew to the door, keeping their faces towards him. The marquis of Landsdown came in, dressed as a simple gentleman, and immediately announced the postponement of a motion he had intended to make that day; soon after this, as no other business appeared, the house adjourned till the next week. One of the officers in attendance, took up the mace, and carried it out of the room, followed by the speaker and the other members.

I have several times attended the lectures in the Royal Institution, since my return to London, as well as on one or two occasions, during my first visit. This institution appears to occupy what has formerly been two spacious dwelling houses. It is situated in Albemarle-street, a pleasant part of the west end of the town. It contains, in addition to the apparatus and lecture room, a reading room, furnished with periodical publications, and books; a room in which the subscribers and proprietors read the newspapers and journals; and a large and valuable library of historical, classical, and scientific works. I found no difficulty, on the permit which Sir H. Davy obligingly furnished me, of obtaining admission to these rooms, as well as to the lectures. I was surprised to find in the library, among a great number of publications and papers relative to America, manuscript copies of the journals of our congress, during the American war. They formed a part, if I mistake not, of a

very valuable collection of books, which belonged to the estate of Thomas Astle, Esq. a private gentleman, and which was purchased by the proprietors, for this institution. In what manner these copies were obtained, during the revolutionary struggle, (as it is highly probable they were then obtained,) I was not informed. One room of the institution is appropriated to minerals, the collection of which is extensive and valuable. The chemical laboratory, in the basement story, is exceedingly well constructed. Adjacent to it is an arrangement of seats for private lectures, and in an apartment on the same floor, is the grand galvanic battery, which has been so powerful an instrument of discovery, in the dexterous and skilful hands of Sir Humphrey Davy. It contains about 3000 double plates, arranged in troughs of Wedgewood porcelain.

The theatre, or principal lecture room, is semicircular, and will accommodate 700 persons, with a gallery around it, which will hold 200 more. The chemical lectures are delivered by Professor Brande, who, considering the difficulty of the path which he had to tread, in consequence of the extraordinary ingenuity and eloquence of his predecessor, sustains the reputation of his department with great credit. The number of his auditors, when I have attended, has been about 200, more than half of whom were females, apparently of the most respectable classes of society. The chemical and philosophical apparatus is of the first order, and the experiments are, accordingly, rendered particularly attractive. Professor Millington, whom I have also heard in this institution, is now engaged in giving a popular and in-

teresting course, on the power and management of steam. His method of illustration is perspicuous and happy, and accordingly meets with flattering success.

This and the other scientific institutions of the metropolis, together with the lectures of a number of private teachers, give to this city an elevation in the scale of science, in some measure commensurate to its dignity as the seat of the British empire, and the great mart of commerce, learning, and the arts.

The business of printing and selling books, is carried on to a vast extent. The gross annual returns arising from this trade, has been computed at a million sterling, and it is supposed to furnish employment to 2000 persons. Bookstores are to be found in all parts of the town; but Paternoster-Row, a narrow and uncomfortable street near St. Paul's cathedral, is the principal focus whence the rays of learning are scattered to all parts of the reading world. It is here that most of the large establishments are to be found. The house of Longman & Co. is excelled by none, I believe, in the number of new works which issue from its presses, or in the extent and variety of the collections which they keep for sale. I had the pleasure of an introduction to one of the partners of this house, and have experienced from his politeness, the privilege of an unrestrained admission to their collection, and the liberty even of borrowing from them any work which I might wish to look over. I have seldom had time to avail myself of this favour, but it nevertheless deserves a suitable acknowledgment. In this very extensive *shop*, or as we should call it *store*, (a term which the English re-

gard as an Americanism,) the books are classed under a convenient number of heads, and each division is kept in a distinct place or apartment.*

It is supposed that the number of monthly publications, which is sent off by the coaches and wagons, from Paternoster-Row and its neighbourhood, amount to fifty or sixty thousand. But notwithstanding the vast extent of this literary trade, I cannot avoid the conclusion, that it is excelled, in point of number and quantity, by the immense fertility of the Parisian press. There can be no doubt that the French language, cultivated as it is in all parts of the continent, is abundantly more prolific than the English, in its typographical progeny. One great reason of this superiority, is the comparative cheapness of French, and dearness of English books. The disparity is very great. It is, I think, much to be regretted that English books are now got up in such a style of luxury, as necessarily to operate as a prohibition with no inconsiderable proportion of the nation. Were education as general in France as it is in England, the comparative number of readers in the two countries, would be more widely different than it actually is.

The almost unbounded freedom of the English press, is, on the other hand, decidedly in favour of the growth and extension of its literature. "*Avec le privilege du Roi,*" is an impression very commonly seen even upon the fugitive publications of

* It appears from the statement of Lord John Russell in the House of Commons, that the sales of this house amount to five millions of volumes in the year; that they employ sixty clerks, pay a sum of £5500 in advertisements, and give constant employment to not fewer than 250 printers and bookbinders.

France, or at least of those which have a bearing upon politics or religion; and it is well known, that between the temptations of authorship and the censors of the press, there is a constant struggle.

It appears more plainly to me than ever, to be an emphatical truth, that the freedom of the press is justly to be regarded as the palladium of national rights. Far be it from me to imply, that no limitations whatever should be set to the liberty of printing and publishing. When the press becomes the palpable and shameless supporter of gross immorality, or directs its poisoned shafts at the fundamental principles of the Christian religion, no real philanthropist can doubt, I should think, that the dignified interference of the law will prove essentially salutary. But the superior freedom of the subject, guaranteed by English laws and British customs, appears to me scarcely less evident in the literary tone of the nation, than in the facility with which strangers and travellers may pass from one end of the country to another, without the formality of passports, or the vexatious interruptions of gates and douaniers.

The numbers regularly commissioned as guardians of the public peace in London, including marshalsmen, beadles, constables, watchmen, and patroles, is about 3000. I should suppose, though I offer it only as conjecture, that in the city of Paris, including the gens-d'armes actually on duty, the number must be at least three times as great. As far as my own experience extends, there is as much individual safety in walking the streets of London, either by day or night, as in any of the continental cities. Pickpockets are said

to be numerous, but being generally on my guard, I have never been interrupted or injured by their sly and dexterous manœuvres.

The Thames is considerably larger than the Seine at Paris, and its current more rapid; but the bridges of the French capital, appear to me, upon the whole, to be of a lighter and more agreeable structure than those of the Thames. Southwark bridge, a new edifice, between London bridge and Blackfriars, and now nearly completed, is entirely of iron. It consists of three arches only, the central one having a span of 240 feet, and each of the others 210 feet. It does great credit to the skill of its celebrated architect, Rennie, but it is, I think, less elegant than that of the Jardin du Roi at Paris.

The Waterloo, or Strand bridge, is one of the most sumptuous structures of stone, of this kind, in the world. It crosses the Thames near Somerset-house, about half way between Blackfriars and Westminster bridges. It was built under the direction of the same distinguished architect.* It is perfectly flat on the top, but this circumstance does not in the least lessen its symmetrical and beautiful appearance. It consists of nine arches, each 120 feet span. The piers are twenty feet thick, with Tuscan columns; there being a foot path of seven feet wide

* In the death of John Rennie, which took place on the 4th of October, 1821, Great Britain lost one of the ablest men whose genius sheds a lustre upon the annals of her architecture. He was the son of a Scotch farmer. He died in the sixty-fourth year of his age, and was buried in St. Paul's cathedral. Several large canals; the London, East India, Liverpool, and Dublin docks; the Plymouth Break-Water; the Southwark and Waterloo bridges, and various other extensive public works, will be durable monuments of his extraordinary talents.

on each side, and a carriage road of 28 feet between. This is a toll bridge, having been built by a company with a capital of £1,000,000. The stock, I was informed, is at present so worthless that it cannot be given away; the taxes and other expenses of the bridge amounting to more than the income.

I have taken considerable pains to become acquainted with the philosophical instrument makers of London, as well as of Paris. They are much more numerous in this city, than in the French capital; but there is no shop in London where so great a variety of ready made apparatus can be found as in that of Pixii at Paris. Different workmen have acquired a reputation of superiority in different kinds of instruments; and so nice and difficult is it to combine perfect accuracy of movement with beauty and elegance of finish, in this kind of work, one need not be surprised that a journeyman, who has once established a claim to merit of this sort, should be much sought after. There is, too, a great want of economy and good conduct, on the part of the workmen in this line of business, as well as in many others. If they can earn enough in two or three days to support them a week, they will remain idle during the other three or four. Hence it is no easy thing to get an order executed at a short notice, unless it be for some of the most common kinds of instruments. I can acknowledge, however, that I have been subject to less disappointment and perplexity from ready promises, and long protracted performance, here, than in Paris. The French instruments are, I think, upon the whole, cheaper than the English. For those which require great mathematical accuracy and per-

fection of workmanship, those of Troughton, Dollond, and others of London, are still to be preferred. In most or all of the institutions on the continent, which I visited, a great proportion of the instruments are of London workmanship ; but of the collections in this country, very few are to be seen of continental origin.

LETTER XXIX.

Sheffield, 2d month, (Feb.) 19, 1819.

MY DEAR *****,

The day and hour of separation from my London friends, having once more arrived, I found it impossible to take a final leave, without experiencing emotions, which cannot easily be resisted, when the heart is touched with grateful sensibilities. From many individuals and families, I have received the most disinterested kindness, in a repetition of such attentions and favours, as could not fail to make a lasting impression upon the feelings of a stranger. Such acts of kindness, originating in minds subject to the benign influence of Christian love, could have no other motive than a desire to practice those virtues which the Gospel enjoins, and which, in their exercise, are productive of their own reward.

In the several branches of the family of my worthy and venerable friend W. D*****, I have enjoyed ever since my return to England, as well as before, the ease, hospitality, and comfort of a real *home*. The title of an American, constituted part of my claim ;

for a residence of forty years in England had by no means obliterated from his memory and affections, the ties of nativity and the sympathies of early manhood. We had been known to each other, through the medium of mutual friends, more than twenty years. Now advanced in age and infirm in health, but of refined manners and instructive conversation, he is still the delight of a numerous circle of friends and acquaintance, among whom are persons of various ranks and professions. Independent in fortune, and benevolent in disposition, his time in this country has been much spent in advancing the interests of humanity. As the intimate friend and coadjutor of Clarkson, Wilberforce, Allen, and others, his name will be associated with the welfare of Africa, and the prosperity of many of the most useful institutions of the metropolis.

I might commemorate, with similar pleasure, were it permitted me to speak as I feel, the gratification derived from the society of many other individuals and families,—and more especially, of my friends H***** and P***** of Tottenham; in whom the happy union of science and benevolence, has enlivened the hours of social enjoyment, and added claims to friendship which cannot be forgotten.

Having taken a seat in the Defiance coach for Derby, I left London on the 15th at two o'clock, in a mood but little disposed to join in the conversation of two inside passengers, one of whom I found was from Manchester, and the other from Norwich. In their colloquial topics I felt no interest, till the former happened to mention that he had recently returned from the United States. He had seen the principal towns on

the sea-board, and had ascended the Hudson river as far as Albany. On being asked by the other how he liked the country, he replied, that he was not at all pleased. He was disgusted every where with the want of good manners. In his whole route he had not fallen in with a single person whom he could call a gentleman. This reply appeared to startle his companion, and he asked him how this could possibly happen. "I know not how to account for it," said he, "unless there are no real gentleman in the country." But, said the other, we see Americans occasionally in this country, who do not appear to be deficient in the qualities of gentlemen. "That may be, but I believe, none but the best of them ever visit England. Information is at a very low ebb among them." But do they not read? "Yes, they may read, but they do not seem to profit much by it. The roads are miserably bad, and the coaches worse." Such was the flippant and unqualified invective in which this citizen of Manchester, with a true Lancashire aspi-rate, chose to indulge against our national character and customs. My feelings were somewhat roused,—but suppressing the excitement, I proceeded to question him further respecting America, as one desirous of information, and having some intention of going there myself. I found that he had spent but two and a half months in the United States, nearly the whole of which time was devoted to his commercial concerns. He had been introduced to no society, except that of dealers. Our steamboats, he admitted, were worthy of praise, but he saw little or nothing else in the country deserving commendation. Of the

honesty and fair dealing of the merchants, he had no great opinion.

To account for this unreserved vituperation, in a man who appeared to be at least civil and good natured, and without any particular antipathies against America, I am much at a loss. He had probably been disappointed in his commercial views, and this may have disposed his mind so entirely against the country and its inhabitants, as to exclude all candour, and to fill him with prejudice and dislike. At the same time, I fear there is too much reason to believe, that a foreigner, and especially an Englishman, whose previous education had not qualified him to guard against the fatal error of drawing general conclusions from insulated facts, would be naturally impressed with the difference of manners in the middling and lower classes of the two countries, in a way unfavourable to some of our republican habits. We ought not, perhaps, to expect, that the freedom of thinking and acting, so universally enjoyed in the United States, and which must eventually give a decided tone to our national manners, should not produce, in some instances, an effect unfriendly to the courtesies and refinements of polished life.

At the supper table of the inn where we stopped, one of my inside fellow-passengers, in reply to another who was riding on the outside, remarked, "You are from the North, I think Sir." "I am." "Can you then," I asked, "distinguish a Northern from a Southern man, by his appearance." "We can Sir, generally." "What part of England do you then suppose me to be from?" "I do not know exactly,

but I should take you to be of the South." Another, after observing me more closely, conjectured that I was from one of the middle counties. They appeared greatly surprised when I assured them that I had not been in England six months in my life. "You are not, surely, from America?" "I am." "I must ask a thousand pardons, Sir," said the Manchester passenger, with some confusion, "for the manner in which I have spoken of your country." "We see," said his companion, "that there are some exceptions to your rule of American gentlemen?" "Yes," said he, but you know that I before remarked, that those who visit England are the very best of the country." My judgment was then seriously appealed to, whether this was not the fact. Indeed I have often been asked whether those who visit Europe are not *mostly* or *altogether* of the superior class of Americans, with respect to intellect and information; and I have not hesitated to say that, as far as my information extends, I might safely answer in the negative.

This instance of deep-rooted and unwarrantable prejudice against us, is not an uncommon case. English travellers cross the Atlantic with inflated expectations of wealth, independence, and purity of morals; and with few introductions to persons of respectability, they mix only with the surface of society, and because they do not discover that human nature is more refined in America than in England, or that the inhabitants of our back settlements are deficient in some of the graces which are conferred only by education, and a mixture with the world,—they suffer themselves to fly from one extreme to another, imbibing the strongest prejudices, and on their return,

not only speak, but write and publish observations replete with unfairness, if not with the grossest calumnies. Of the numerous travels through the United States by Englishmen and Irishmen, I know scarcely one which I think has been written in the spirit of true candour, or which shows much acquaintance with human nature. This course of proceeding is deeply to be regretted. It keeps alive national antipathies. It feeds the spirit which engenders war, and all the evils that spring from mutual hatred and animosity. It is time for every honest man, in both countries, to set his face against every thing that tends to oppose the temper of mutual forbearance, and that unison of feeling, towards which, the common origin, the common language and literature, the common sense, and the common welfare of the two nations, have so direct and natural a tendency.

The coach in which I travelled passed, in the night, through Dunstable, Woburn, Northampton, Harborough, and Leicester, several of which are large towns. The day broke as we entered Loughborough in Leicestershire, a town of a more modern appearance than ordinary. We arrived about ten A. M. at Derby situated in the southern part of the county to which it gives name. I spent the remainder of the day in visiting such of the manufactories and institutions of this town, as were pointed out to me as most deserving the attention of a stranger. It contains a porcelain factory of great extent, belonging to Robert Bloor. The ware-room is large, and well filled with articles of utility and ornament; many of which are of elegant workmanship. Men, women, and children, with various domestic animals, are imitated in porce-

lain, with extraordinary precision. I noticed one vase the price of which was twenty guineas. But in fineness and beauty of composition, and costliness of execution, this ware is very inferior to that of Sevre in France. Lead is always used in the glazing, but it is so completely vitrified with the siliceous portion of the surface, as to obviate the danger arising from the use of a metal, generally very noxious and objectionable in the utensils of the table. About 250 people are employed in this factory, a number, greater than that of the Royal establishment in France. In one apartment were forty-four persons, employed exclusively in painting the ware, besides several in another room. The colours are all laid on by hand. Forty women were engaged in one room, in burnishing the gilded vessels, by means of blood-stones. The women earn from seven to nine shillings per week. The figures of men and other animals are formed by making, previously, a mould of burnt gypsum, into which the biscuit, in a fluid state, is poured. The gypsum contributes to *set* the porcelain, but before it has become entirely fixed, the interior is poured out, which leaves the image hollow, an object of importance in the baking.

Recollecting that S*****, a chemist of considerable celebrity, resided in this town, I called at his house, and he accompanied me to the infirmary, a new and beautiful building, in the construction of which great attention has been paid to convenience and economy. The merit of its contrivance is principally due, I believe, to his ingenuity and talent. This edifice is of handsome grit stone, found near Derby. It has an elevation of three stories, sur-

mounted with an iron dome, around which, in the interior, is a wide, stone gallery. Two light and spacious rooms, one for each sex, are appropriated to the use of convalescents, where persons who are recovering, instead of being confined to their sick chambers, may pass the day, and take their meals. The fever patients are entirely separate from the rest, their rooms having a different staircase. None of the wards have more than eight beds, and some only one. One of the bedsteads revolves on an axis by machinery, so that the patient can be turned without being touched; but I was told that the sick have a prejudice against it. There is a small kitchen on the same floor with the sick wards, and opening into the centre of them, which is extremely convenient for the nurse, especially during the night; the principal kitchen being in the basement story, and all the wards in the second from the basement. The first story contains rooms for the keeper, the apothecary, surgeons, physicians, &c. The utmost attention is paid in this infirmary to ventilation. Each water closet is so constructed that the opening of its door inside, pushes out nearly all the air it contains through a valve over the door, opening outwards; and when the door is again shut, fresh air from without enters through a valve in the door opening inwards. All the rooms and wards communicate with the top of the house by flues.

The whole building is warmed by heated air. The method of doing this is simple and effectual. The external air enters a subterranean passage, about 70 yards from the infirmary, being admitted into this passage through a large tube, with an opening at the top

on one side only. This tube turning on a shaft, by means of a vane, always presents the opening to the wind. The air is considerably tempered in this passage under ground, and after circulating around a heated stove, ascends through pipes, to the various rooms. A steam engine of one horse power, is kept in activity for pumping water, driving the washing machine, and other heavy operations. The steam from the boiler, besides supplying the engine, performs much of the cooking. A vessel of water, heated by steam, always stands in the kitchen, ready for any purpose of health or cleanliness. The stove which heats the smoothing irons, heats likewise a current of air, which passes into an air chamber, and dries the clothes rapidly. This is certainly the best constructed building I have ever seen, and possesses a degree of perfection unknown, perhaps, to similar establishments. It cost £15,000. The names of donors are, as usual, exhibited in neat characters in one of the principal apartments. One individual whose name is not given, has credit for £6000. In one apartment, is a model of the building, which cost £100.

S***** did me the favour to call and spend the evening with me. He is a person of extensive knowledge in chemistry and the arts. He was one of the first who discovered the process by which zinc is rendered malleable, and is now rolled into sheets and used for roofs, pipes and other economical purposes.

17th. The city of Derby, is situated on the river Derwent, and has a population of 15,000. It is remarkable for its industry and activity, particularly in the manufacture of silks, cottons, and porcelain ware. Gas lights were first tried upon a large scale in the

extensive cotton manufactory of J. Strutt, Esq. an ingenious public spirited gentleman of this town.

The roads in Derbyshire, are considered as good as any in England. They are composed of limestone, which is probably the best material for a hard and durable road that has any where been applied to this purpose. A general error in the formation of roads, is giving them too great a curve transversely. or in other words, making them too round. The stones in this case, do not compact so well together. The best and smoothest roads are, accordingly, almost flat. The superiority and excellence of English roads, is, I would again repeat, owing conjointly to the care which is taken to keep them level, to renew the decaying materials in due season, and to the use of broad wheels.

I have observed in one or two places a method of grinding and compacting the materials of a road, which appeared to be remarkably expeditious and effectual. A large hollow cast iron roller, three feet or more in diameter, is adjusted to an axle, over which is suspended a very large and strong wooden box. This is loaded with stones to such an extent as to require a strong team, (occasionally a dozen or twenty horses or oxen) to move it. This instrument, moved backwards and forwards, a few times over a newly paved road, crushes the stones, and soon renders the surface hard, smooth and level.

To enjoy the scenery more fully between Derby and Matlock, I placed myself this morning along side of the driver of the Nottingham coach. Some of the observations of this man amused me not a little; but in common with many of the working classes, in this

part of England, he used the singular number, in addressing a single person, and not unfrequently interlarded his remarks, with epithets derived from the vocabulary of Billingsgate. Such a combination of terms, is, to an American at least, as singular as it is incongruous and unpleasant.

The road during part of this route, (17 miles,) is delightfully picturesque. The river Derwent, a wild and romantic stream, flowed beneath us on our left, while midway up the hills on our right, a beautiful canal, as if dependent on the clouds for its supply, bore its level waters along the sinuosities of the hills, and at one point of the road, it passed in a substantial trough of masonry across the river. It was the first instance which has fallen within my notice, of such a triumph of art over nature, and could not fail to excite feelings of admiration, for the talents of John Brindley, who was a native of this county, and whose masterly genius qualified him to become the benefactor of England, in extending and advancing the principles of inland navigation.

At Millford we passed several very large cotton and bleaching mills, which, with the houses built for the residence of the workmen and their families, constitute a beautiful collection of buildings.

The cottages of the work people are of stone, and of a uniform structure. They extend in a contiguous row nearly a quarter of a mile, and are all numbered; the floors are of brick.

Belper is a market town, eight miles from Derby, of 6000 inhabitants. The cotton mills belonging to the family of Strutt, in this place, form an immense group of buildings. The principal mill is 200 feet long, 30

feet wide, and 6 stories high. This mill has three water wheels, the largest of which, used only in floods, has the extraordinary dimensions of 40 feet in length, and 18 in diameter. My excellent Matlock Guide informs me, that in this town about 750 children are taught in Lancasterian and Sunday schools, supported by the proprietors of the mills. At Millford also, about 300 children are taught in institutions supported by the same company. Such noble and liberal exertions, deserve to be recorded.

The valley of the Derwent, beyond Belper, is in many places enchanting. The hills are clothed with low wood, and the numerous cottages and farm houses distributed over the ever varying landscape, present altogether such a continuance of sylvan beauty, as to render this ride uncommonly attractive.

At Cromford, a village one mile from Matlock bath, we passed the cotton mill erected by that prince of mechanics, Sir Richard Arkwright. It was the first that was ever worked by the power of water. How deeply is the present prosperity of England indebted to the talents of this extraordinary man! It would be difficult, I think, to name an individual, with the whole civilized world before us, whose inventive powers are better entitled to the grateful applauses of his country. This, I am aware, will be contested by those who entertain the belief, that the introduction of labour-saving machinery has, upon the whole, been attended with more harm than good, to the morals and happiness of the working classes. There are, indeed, few of the blessings of Providence, which are not liable to perversion and abuse. That no evils have attended the erection and multiplication of large

cotton factories, in this and in other nations, it would be folly to deny; but these evils are doubtless of a nature that do not forbid the application of remedies adequate to their removal. The progress of a humane and enlightened policy, with respect to education, and the gradual amelioration of the system of management, in these extensive manufactories, seem to afford the promise of an eventual triumph over the principal evils with which they have been attended; and whoever takes a rational survey of the immense benefits which man derives from every important extension of his dominion over matter,—the vast accession to his comforts, which the arts afford, and the innumerable friendly ties which are thus made to bind the various parts of a nation into one united brotherhood, and even to form a cementing charm between distant and remote nations, will not hesitate a moment, to admit the vast amount of obligation, which England and the world are under, to such a genius as Sir Richard Arkwright. It is creditable to his country, that his talents were so well fostered by its beneficent patronage, as to raise him from obscurity and poverty, to distinction and wealth. He died in 1792, and his remains were deposited in the chapel of Cromford, which was built and endowed by himself. But where is his monument? It is not to be found in the hamlet which protects his ashes; nor need it: it will long live in the memories of thousands, in England and America,—it will live in the page of history.

From Cromford, we entered by a narrow road, or passage, cut through a rock, called *Scarthin Nick*, and on rising the hill, the beauties of Matlock Dale open-

ed before us. Few persons, whatever their expectations, will be disappointed in the sweetness and prettiness of the scenery of this valley. On the right, across the river, Willersley castle presents a conspicuous object. It is the seat of the present Richard Arkwright, Esq. the son of the barber, and *worthy knight*. I had not time to visit it. Its situation, I should suppose, is in one of the most picturesque situations in England. The grounds are said to be laid out with great taste. I am no great admirer of Darwin's florid measure, and his liberties with *nymphs* and *naiades*; but he has succeeded in *twisting* into poetry what no other friend of the muses had probably ever thought of—the various processes of *cotton spinning*:

So now, where Derwent rolls his dusky floods,
Through vaulted mountains, and a night of woods,
The nymph Gossypia* treads the velvet sod,
And warms, with rosy smiles, the watery god;
His ponderous oars to slender spindles turns,
And pours o'er mossy wheels his foamy urns;
With playful charms her hoary lover wins,
And wields his trident while the monarch spins, &c.

Botanic Garden.

At Saxton's Hotel, I found plenty of room, and good accommodations, for this is not the season of visitors. The views from the green in front of this house are very fine, partaking a little of the Alpine, from the height of the hills on each side of the river; for river it must be called, though its width is about equal to that of Stony-brook, between Princeton and Trenton in New-Jersey. The baths of Matlock are supplied by springs, which issue from the

* Gossypium, the cotton plant.

hills. The water is of a higher temperature than the air, and answers for warm bathing. It brings with it from the hills, a great deal of carbonate of lime in solution, a considerable portion of which is precipitated on exposure to the air, incrusting whatever it passes over. I went into a cavern, called the *petrifying well*, near the margin of the river. It is an open mouthed cave, of an oven shape, from the roof of which the water is constantly dripping. Substances placed on the bottom, are by degrees entirely covered with a calcareous crust. Egg shells, bird's nests, and other things are treated in this way, and sold to visitors.

This part of Derbyshire is celebrated for the production of that beautiful fossil, the fluete of lime, or Derbyshire spar. It is manufactured in this place, as well as at Derby, into ornaments of great variety and elegance of form. The colours are very much diversified in the native mineral; but I found, on visiting the workshops, that the darker hues are elicited by heat. For this purpose, lumps of the spar are put in a hot oven, and when the temperature is sufficiently raised, they are taken out and rapidly cooled. The deeper colours, especially the purples, immediately manifest themselves and remain permanent, generally in veins pervading the mass. The working of this mineral is so difficult and painful, I could not but feel compassion for the men who are dependent upon it for their subsistence. Besides the fluete of lime, the sulphate is also wrought here, with great effect, in the manufactory of boxes and other ornaments. A beautiful snow white variety is found in some of the mines. The most productive part of these

mines is lead ore, or galena, which occurs in a variety of forms, and is extensively wrought. The other minerals of this region are calcareous fossils, of which some of the varieties are eminently beautiful, especially the dog-tooth spar; ores of zinc, both blend and calamine, traces of copper, iron pyrites, manganese, barytes, and quartz crystals. Stalactites of great beauty and diversity of colour, are obtained here. Many varieties of the lime-stone are worked as marble. That which is filled with entrochi and other marine exuviæ, is very handsome. A black marble, found on the estate of the Duke of Devonshire, is much valued for the perfection of its polish. It is so hard as to answer for watch seals.

A museum, in which all the varieties of manufactured articles, and of natural crystallizations and minerals, is kept at Matlock bath, by Mawe, a dealer in minerals, of considerable celebrity in London. This museum is open to visitors without cost, as the articles are all for sale. I procured a guide, and went into Rutland cavern, one of the greatest curiosities in the place. It reminded me forcibly of the catacombs of Paris, but the avenues and galleries are much more irregular, and the walls and passages more damp and difficult to pass through. It contains several spacious openings or chambers, called halls. This mine is well ventilated. A traveller who wishes to observe the interior appearance of a mine, cannot gratify his curiosity with less difficulty, exposure, or fatigue, than in this cavern. It is still explored for lead, and the labyrinths are lined with brilliant crystallizations of fluuate and carbonate of lime, and of various metallic substances.

18th. The stage having left me, I hired a man to take me in a gig to Bakewell, distant ten miles, for which I paid him twelve shillings. The morning was pleasant, the ground a little stiffened with frost, but in other respects there were few traces of winter to be seen. My conductor informed me, that cattle and horses had remained in the open fields without fodder during the whole winter; a circumstance which does not usually happen.

Our road led us by the rivers Derwent and Wye, through a finely cultivated country. These rivers, during part of the year at least, are deep enough for the navigation of small sloops. At Bakewell, I left my luggage under the care of the landlady of the Rutland Arms, to be forwarded by the coach on its arrival, and set off on foot for Chatsworth, the celebrated mansion and seat of the Duke of Devonshire, about four miles distant. The country in this neighbourhood is beautifully variegated with hill and dale, and so highly cultivated as to present, on every side, a smiling and charming landscape. I entered the grounds of Chatsworth through a noble gate, and was directed, by a rosy cheeked porteress, which way to go to get to the mansion, still at a considerable distance.

On reaching the brow of a hill, the noble edifice, with its numerous outbuildings, gardens, lawns, and groves, burst upon the sight, almost with the force of enchantment. The River Wye flowed through the park, between the place where I stood, and the mansion, and over it was an elegant stone bridge of three arches, ornamented with figures. The situation of the house appears rather too low, as seen from a dis-

tance, but when one is on the spot, there is a fine amphitheatre of prospect, especially towards the south. The main portal is a large and imposing gateway, with a lodge on each side. The house is of the Ionic order, with a flat roof surrounded by a balustrade. Its form is nearly square, each side being 190 feet; but within is a spacious quadrangular court, with a fountain in the centre. The porter sent a messenger with me to the house, where I was met by the housekeeper, a female of a very respectable, matronly appearance, who conducted me through the various rooms and halls of this splendid seat of nobility, and readily satisfied my inquiries. The fronts which form the quadrangle, are decorated with sculpture. The hall is very lofty, and is ornamented with paintings of the Roman History, by Verrio. At each end of it is a double flight of steps fourteen feet wide, each landing place being a block of marble fourteen feet square! The chapel is enriched with paintings and carvings. One long gallery is filled with original sketches, which might have furnished entertainment for a whole day. Much of the furniture is of French origin. A piece of French tapestry was shown me one hundred years old, still in good condition. The duke is now in Paris. He travels, if I mistake not, *incognito*. He is, I should judge, a person of fine taste in the arts, from the pains and expense he has incurred to obtain specimens. He labours, I was told, under the disadvantage of very defective hearing. He is about twenty-eight years of age, and has never, I believe, been married.

In one part of this edifice, as it formerly stood, Mary Queen of Scots passed thirteen years of her life in

captivity, under the care of the Earl of Shrewsbury. My conductress took me through two or three rooms, which correspond with those inhabited by that unfortunate princess, and which are still called by her name. It was impossible, while treading within the walls which once confined a personage so conspicuous in history, to escape from the influence of that solemnizing association which carried the mind back two hundred and fifty years, and almost identified it with the events of that period, so interesting in themselves, and so important to the destinies of England. The sympathy which in early life had filled my eye, on reading the pathetic story of Mary's trial and death, in the eloquent pages of Robertson, again revived, but with redoubled force, from this proximity to the scene of her afflictions. It was during her residence at this place, that she wrote her second letter to Pope Pius, dated the 31st of October, 1570.

The grounds of Chatsworth are laid out on a plan of great expense and ornament, though not in the modern style. Artificial cascades, jets d'eau, and other hydraulic exhibitions, are very prominent, and I confess, to me, very pleasant features in the scenery of this noble mansion. On the north is an abrupt hill, of great elevation, which, though it limits the view in that direction, defends the house and grounds from the boreal winds, and renders the valley below, more beautiful from the contrast. On the summit of this hill is a large body of water, occupying nearly thirty acres, which affords an abundant supply, for all the works of Neptunian construction. One of the servants escorted me to the principal places, and opened the fountains for my amusement. The chief of these is the grand

cascade, which consists of a series of stone steps, or stages, extending a long distance down the hill, crowned at the top by a temple, and supplied from the upper reservoir. On entering this temple, the stranger is liable to be made the subject of sport to those who are without. While he is admiring the prospect through the portals, a great number of little jets start up from the floor, and unless he quickly make his escape, wet him to the skin. On opening the main pipe, the water rushes in vast quantities, from a variety of figures, and, covering the dome of the temple, plunges down with the rapidity and noise of a loud cataract, flows down the steps and platforms, to the bottom of the hill, and disappears by sinking into the earth. Sea horses and tritons, figure in the group. In one place is a fountain, which throws the water to the height of ninety feet; and in another, the stranger is conducted under a tree, which appears to be a decayed willow, and if he is not aware of the deception, he will be suddenly exposed to the inconvenience of a heavy shower bath, the water pouring in streams from the branches of the tree, which in reality, is made of copper, and painted. The stables, and out houses, are very numerous; and the green house, and garden, are in correspondence with the other parts of this magnificent seat. The park extends over a circumference of nine miles, and contains large herds of deer.

After a delightful walk of a mile or two, through the park, I met the mail coach at Barslow, a small village, and rode over an extensive and dreary moor, belonging to the Duke of Rutland. Not a house was to be seen, for many miles on this moor, except the

cottage of the game keeper. Great numbers of grouse started up around us, as the coach passed over this fenceless waste. The strong temptation which the poor are under, to appropriate to themselves the birds of the air, and other wild animals, which inhabit these extensive and solitary moors, and the severity of the laws which prohibit such intrusions upon the rights of the owner, are sources of numerous and distressful prosecutions, many of which have been long considered, I believe, by enlightened and humane jurists, as disreputable to British legislation.

Sheffield, like other busy towns, announced itself on our approach, by dense volumes of smoke. The environs were remarkable for the great number of good houses and gardens, and pleasant country seats, preserved in that neatness, which is so agreeable a trait, in the rural scenery of this country. On entering the town, the prospect was greatly reversed. The streets were dirty, the houses black with smoke, and combined with the bustle of markets and manufactories, was the appearance of many persons, whose condition indicated a sphere of life, far below that of a contented mediocrity. At the Tontine, a large and well regulated inn, I met my friend G. D*****, of London, who had preceded me in his journey to the north. We were both very hospitably entertained, for several days, at C*** Wood, the house of a kind and truly respectable friend, S. S****, about a mile from the centre of the town.

LETTER XXX.

York, 2d month, (Feb.) 25th, 1819.

MY DEAR ****,

SHEFFIELD is the great cutlery shop of England. Its manufactories, though not entirely restricted to articles of metal, are less various than those of Birmingham. As the principal object which can induce a stranger to make much stop here, is to visit the work shops, I endeavoured to avail myself, as fast as possible, of this privilege; and I could not have fallen into better hands. My friend S. who is one of the most wealthy and intelligent manufacturers, is at the same time, so generally respected by his fellow citizens, that his presence is sufficient to insure a polite reception to those who may accompany him; and he has been so kind as to go with me to every establishment, which he supposed would gratify my curiosity. He and his partner are very largely concerned in the manufactory of iron, the various processes of which are performed with wonderful dexterity. The ore is reduced at Chesterfield, in Derbyshire, and brought in the state of coarse pigs to Sheffield, where it is converted, by the power of steam and manual skill, to the state of fine bar, rod, and plate iron. Steel is also rolled into sheets, in the same extensive factory. The conversion of iron into steel, by the process of cementation, and the making of cast steel, we saw in another establishment. For the latter purpose, the common blistered steel is broken up, and melted in earthen pots, which hold about two gallons each. From them it

is poured into moulds of iron, and forms bars of smooth cast steel.

29th. The principal manufactories we have visited, are the following:—First, *Plating and drawing silver wire*. This is done in the usual way. Besides wire, the metal is also drawn into ribbands, with various flutings, and ornamental figures, for handles, spouts, &c.

Second, *Tilting and forging steel*. Several bars are welded together, by heavy tilt hammers, and drawn into rods, a process which renders the steel more tenacious and ductile.

Third, *Saw making*. The instrument being cut out of sheet steel, the teeth are fashioned by cutting out the triangular pieces, or intervals, with a kind of punch, worked by one man, with the aid of a lever and screw, not very dissimilar to the coining press. The saw is afterwards hardened, by heating it red hot, and plunging it into oil, of a determinate temperature.

Fourth, *Case knife making*. The knives are separately forged on an anvil, but the finishing of the instrument is consigned to various hands, each of whom, having but one operation to perform, acquires a dexterity and rapidity of execution, attainable by no other means. The formation of the bone, or ivory handles, is a distinct process. The carving or roughening of the handle, is done by boys, with rasps of a peculiar construction. The boring of the holes, and fastening on of the handles. are also performed by boys.

A large building has been recently erected by a company, for the purpose of a grinding house. It is provided with a steam engine, which turns as many common grind stones as the area of the

building will easily contain. These stones are hired out to grinders, at the rate of seven or eight guineas per annum, who employ themselves in grinding and polishing edge tools. The stock of the company yields about eight per cent.

Fifth, *The grinding and polishing glass lenses, for spectacles, and optical instruments, by the power of steam.* This operation is managed with surprising facility, and as true a curve is given to the lens, as could be done by the nicest manipulation. The glass being previously cut, and roughly shaped, is fastened by a cement of pitch, upon the convex surface of an upright block, or support. A concave cap, having the requisite curvature, is placed upon the glasses, as many of which are stuck upon the block, as the surface will admit of. The cap, previously smeared with emery, is then thrown into the gear of the engine, and moves rapidly over the glasses, with a vascillating motion, precisely similar to that which a workman would be likely to give it by the motion of his hand, directed by the power of his judgment. This was to me a perfectly new, and, I confess, no less interesting proof of the vast fertility of human genius, in contriving means for saving manual labour. I should imagine, that a few manufactories, of the extent of the one now alluded to, might supply spectacle glasses for the whole kingdom.

Sixth. *The cutting of iron screws.* This is done by hand, and chiefly by women. Screws of the smallest size must each be handled. To America belongs the merit of having given birth to the invention of a machine by which screws are cut and finished, with as much certainty in the operation, as nails are made

by the ordinary mechanical process. The name of the inventor of this machine, I do not now remember, but I recollect to have seen it in Philadelphia, and to have made several screws, by turning the machine with my own hand.

Seventh, *Buffing metallic goods*, such as spoons, ladles, &c. by holding them against a polisher or hard buff, or swab, turned by steam.

Eighth, *File cutting*. The file being forged, the cutting is effected by repeated and rapid strokes of a chisel and hammer.

Ninth, *Wearing hair seating, for sofas, chairs, &c.* The warp is of black thread, and the filling only, of horse hair. A little girl stands by the side of the loom, and hooks the end of a long hair upon the end of a shuttle, which the weaver draws through, then presses it with the reed and throws the shuttle back for another hair.

Tenth, *The forging of Scissors*. This process is effected entirely by hand, upon the anvil. A workman in our presence, completely fashioned the two parts of a pair of scissors in about fifteen minutes.

Eleventh, *Manufactory of plated ware*; such as breakfast and tea-urns, vases, coffee-pots, &c. This is an extensive concern, and the workmanship is of the finest kind. A steam engine of one horse power, a neat and beautiful machine, and the smallest I have seen used for mechanical purposes, is employed in burnishing the goods. Women are occupied in giving a final polish to the ware, by means of soap suds, steel rubbers, and lastly by using the blood stone.

The great evil of this and other large manufacturing towns arises, as is well known, from the constant liability of a sudden depression in the market, of the

products of their industry ; in consequence of which, the bellows and the loom are arrested, and a large proportion of the population are deprived of their daily earnings.

This reversion of a prosperous business, has of late been so common as to produce an obvious impression upon the character and appearances of Sheffield. An air of depression and external indications of poverty are but too evident, as one passes through the streets. There is, however, a most becoming spirit of patience and fortitude in supporting these trials, and a slight return of more auspicious times, serves to re-animate the courage of the labourers. If there is a larger proportion of the inhabitants of this and other English towns, in a state of mendicity, or of privation bordering upon it, than in our American towns and villages, there is, also, a greater number of the wealthy class ; and on the part of these the motives to Christian benevolence, appear to operate with a salutary and generous influence. All that charity can do in the way of alleviation and consolation, is cheerfully performed ; while the institutions of the government give to the poor as strong a claim upon the bounty of the state, as is at all consistent with the public good.

Sheffield, has hitherto been completely *inland*. In a few days, however, a canal is to be opened, by which even sea boats will be able to load and unload in the centre of the town. The opening of this canal is assigned to the 22d, and is to be attended with a great fête. Eleven or twelve vessels, preceded by a steam boat, are to advance up the new canal to the town, firing guns and responding to the acclamations

of the thousands, who will be collected on the adjoining hills to witness the ceremony. It will constitute quite an epoch in the "village annals." The canal, though only three or four miles long, has cost about £80,000. It contains twelve locks, and will be crossed by thirteen bridges. It will open a full and easy communication with the coal mines and other important places. Its width at top is 48 feet, at bottom 24, and its depth six feet. It terminates at Sheffield in a spacious basin, adjacent to which large ware houses will be erected. The completion of this canal, at this time, and at such an expense, affords the most decisive evidence of the continuance of that energy and public spirit, which, guided by the genius of the nation, have contributed to raise the British empire, to its present unexampled elevation in the scale of commercial and political greatness.

My friend S****, is an intimate acquaintance of James Montgomery, the poet, whose touching effusions are so much admired on both sides of the Atlantic. I regretted that in consequence of a recent indisposition, he could not accept an invitation to dinner, which my friend had given him. But on calling to see him, I had the pleasure of an introduction, and of spending half an hour with him in pleasant conversation. His person is rather beneath the middle size, his countenance open, and he has an elevation of forehead, and a fulness and tenderness of eye, which my imagination could not but regard as an appropriate seat of that pathos of religious feeling, which spreads through his poetry its most attractive and endearing quality.

“Kind as the tear in Pity’s eye,
Soft as the slumbering infant’s sigh,
So sweetly innocently mild,
It spoke the muse of sorrow’s child.”

The Pillow.

His manners are gentle and amiable, and his style of conversation is animated, seasoned with playful wit, and a great readiness in giving his thoughts the clothing of perspicuous and appropriate language. Montgomery is about forty-seven years of age. He has never been married, but evidently appears to have conciliated the warm friendship of those to whom he has become intimately known. He resides with three maidens, whose brother is now the editor of the *National Intelligencer*, our government paper at Washington. His father was a Moravian preacher, and who, as well as his mother, died in the West-Indies, while on a missionary journey among the poor ignorant blacks. James was educated at a school kept under the direction of that sincere and pious sect, in Yorkshire; where, during ten years of his early life, he remained secluded from the world, and where he doubtless received those convictions of the truth of the Christian revelation, which have diffused over his poetic inspirations their moral tenderness and sublimity. He is editor of the *Sheffield Iris*, a paper which, though it is ranked with those in the opposition, maintains, in reality, a character quite independent of a settled hostility to the government, or of the control of party.

20th. Sheffield contains about 40,000 inhabitants. It has one institution called the news-room, which

is well supplied with magazines and newspapers, and is supported by subscription. The members pay twenty-four shillings per annum.

Between Sheffield and Wakefield, the country is finely cultivated, the roads are wider than in the west of England, and the fields are generally fenced with stone walls. Iron works were frequently seen, and the coak beds poured out their dark columns of smoke, and blazing fires in many places. The coal is converted into coak by piling it up in long parallelograms, to the height of several feet, covering it with earth, and setting the mass on fire.

The town of Barnsley has an exceedingly uncomfortable, dirty appearance. It is remarkable for its number of weavers of linen cloth and check. Not less than 500 looms, it is said, are kept in operation here. The wire manufactory is also of considerable extent and antiquity in this place.

Wakefield is one of the pleasantest manufacturing towns I have seen. Its Gothic church is a very ancient and lofty structure. At a short distance from the old town, there commenced, a few years ago, the erection of several new streets and squares. An elegant new church was built, and the spirit of adventure and speculation did not stop, until after the completion of a new town, rivalling, in the stateliness of its houses, and the width and beauty of its streets, some of the finer parts of Bath or London. But this tide of public spirit having attained its maximum, it subsided faster than it rose, and much of this new town is now deserted, the property yielding a very trifling interest to the owners. A letter to
*, * * * *, a respectable banker of this place, secured

to me the hospitality of an amiable and interesting family. The lunatic asylum, considered the best in the kingdom, was the first object of attention. It is a new establishment, erected at public expense, for the benefit of pauper lunatics, within the west riding of Yorkshire. No pains were spared to obtain plans from the most experienced and skilful architects, with a view to the perfection of this institution. It is situated in a pleasant open country, about half a mile from the town, but too near the public road. The natural colour of the bricks, of which it is constructed, is nearly white, which gives it a lively and pleasant appearance. The ground plan of this edifice, is in the form of the letter H, the central part containing the kitchens and other offices. One of the sides is appropriated to male and the other to female lunatics. It contains at present about seventy patients; but when the buildings are completed, it will accommodate a much greater number. Great attention is paid to their classification, and to the separation of the sexes. To give greater efficacy to this restriction, there are two kitchens, one at each extremity of the central building. But whatever care may be taken in the construction of lunatic asylums, and how wise soever the regulations adopted for their government, the success attending their operation, will greatly depend upon the personal qualifications of the superintendents. A judicious and attentive board of governors, is indeed highly important, but the immediate and constant watchfulness of the male and female superintendents, their firm but cheerful deportment, their energetic but humane treatment of the unfortunate objects of their care, their prompti-

tude, their skill, their self control, and their influence over the passions of others, constitute, as I conceive, the most essential elements, in the moral and mental reformation of their alienated subjects. Dr. Ellis, a very respectable and intelligent physician, has taken charge of this institution, from motives, at least in part, of benevolence towards this unhappy class of his fellow creatures. Both he and his wife appeared to me, from their affability, good sense, and judicious arrangements, to be exceedingly well qualified for the station they have assumed. A beautiful steam-engine of three horse power, distributes both hot and cold water through those parts of the building where it is needed. The reservoir of hot water, is managed with peculiar ingenuity. Two cisterns are placed under the roof, into which cold water is forced by the engine. In the centre of one of them is an empty vessel, into which steam is admitted from the boiler of the engine, and by this easy method, sufficient heat is soon communicated to the surrounding fluid. The uncleanly patients are lodged in a quarter by themselves, in rooms lined with cedar, and the soiled clothes are daily washed with great facility, by a machine in an adjoining closet, supplied with pipes of hot and cold water from the reservoir, and a tube to conduct off the wash. This, if I understood rightly, is the contrivance of Dr. Ellis's wife.

This asylum is heated in the same manner as is the infirmary at Derby, by warm air. But the absence of a fire in the hall, where the orderly and convalescent patients daily assemble, is certainly an objection. In this opinion I was joined by the superintendents. The warmth of the apartment may, indeed, be easily

kept up to the requisite degree, by air flues,—but after looking through the windows, and perceiving nothing but the dreariness of winter, what person is there that does not, on turning to the cheering blaze of a lively fire, feel a degree of animation, that produces the happiest effect upon his spirits. Such a source of pleasure, ought not surely to be cut off from those, who stand most in need of every auxiliary to tranquilizing enjoyments. The cells of the patients are warmed only by the flow of hot air through the tops of the windows, which connect them with the centre building. This would scarcely be sufficient in our climate.

Baths, both warm and cold, are much resorted to. The patient is placed in a chair and surrounded by a wire frame, which confines him in his seat. By means of a rope and pulley, he is then lifted into the bath, without a possibility of injury, or of his making much resistance. Hence the bath may be resorted to, either as a physical or moral corrective. The double kitchen does not, on the whole, give satisfaction to the superintendents. Though the boiling is effected entirely by steam, and other labour-saving processes are adopted, yet the trouble is found to be greatly increased by this arrangement, and the benefit anticipated from it, as the means of separation, have not been fully realized. Medical treatment is sparingly resorted to by Dr. Ellis, the chief reliance being placed upon a steady, mild and judicious course of moral government. This institution bids fair to hold the first rank among the lunatic asylums of Great Britain, and its future success, will doubtless be inquired after with much interest by the friends of human-

ity. I did not perceive that much provision was made for the employment of the insane, as a means of cure.

Accepting the offer of my kind hostess, of her riding horse, I went to Ackworth, and spent the afternoon and evening at a large boarding school, belonging to the society of Friends, long since established at that place. It is intended principally for the benefit of those who are not in affluent circumstances. It contains at the present time 308 pupils, of whom 120 are females. The building occupied by this seminary, was originally erected for a hospital, at an expense of £11,000. Attached to it are 200 acres of land, which is worth at least £2000. The whole was purchased by the society for £7000. The house makes a noble appearance; and the garden and grounds are well laid out for the purposes in view. The children are fed, clothed and taught, under the direction of *. ***** , the superintendent, agreeably to the regulations of a committee of the society, who visit the school at stated periods. The fare, though very plain and economical, is healthful, and the system of government is efficient, humane, and parental. Much pains are taken to inculcate the sentiment of piety, of a regard for the Holy Scriptures, of reverence for the great objects of Christian faith, and for the dictates of the Holy Spirit, as revealed in the heart. This, I cannot but consider as the best course of ethics that can be adopted; the only system in short which is likely to produce such a deep and permanent sense of moral and religious obligation, as will extend its influence to the formation of character, and the regulation of conduct throughout the whole of life.

I regretted to find that the literary exercises of the school were not more extended. Reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, and geography, are well taught. Something of practical mathematics, and occasionally a little of Latin may be introduced, but the funds of the institution do not admit of the employment of teachers, whose qualifications are such as to command, at all times, considerable salaries. As the pupils are designed for active, industrious life, their literary education is, perhaps, pretty well adapted to their prospects. Some of them, however, from the cheapness of the accommodations, remain a long while in the institution, and among these there are doubtless boys of genius, who, if the means were afforded, might make such attainments in science or learning, as would qualify them for instructors, and for other responsible and important situations in society. In such an establishment as this, the mechanic arts, and practical agriculture might, I conceive, by a little extension of the plan of education, be most advantageously introduced. If the spirit of the Fellenberg system were adopted—if work shops were erected, and a few mechanics were employed, to assist the genius, and direct the manipulations of the boys, —if such labourers too were engaged on the farm, as were qualified to instruct a class of juvenile assistants, might not the happiest results be expected, not only in relation to the habits of the pupils, but to the improvement of their understandings?

I was much pleased with several specimens which were shown me of native mechanical ingenuity, executed by some of the pupils during their hours of vacation. Models of coaches, and horses, carts, ladders,

and other instruments of utility, were done in a manner which gave decisive indications of promising talents. One hundred and seventy-five bushels of apples were gathered from the orchard of this institution, the last year. The price of board and tuition in this school, is £12 per annum, which I was informed is about half the actual cost. The other moiety is supplied by the funds of the society.

23d. *Leeds.* The road from Wakefield to this place is chiefly remarkable for the number of collieries and coke fires in sight as we pass along. The entrance of the town, as at Sheffield and other places, is black with coal dust and smoke. Having arrived here late last evening from Wakefield, I went this morning to breakfast with *. *****, a friend who has a large cloth manufactory, about a mile from the town. I was surprised to learn that the Saxon wool is preferred to Merino for the finest cloths. The former sells now from nine shillings to ten shillings and six-pence per lb. but, when made as clean as French wool, it is worth thirteen or fourteen shillings sterling per lb. The finest cloth made of this wool is worth, at the factory, thirty shillings per yard. There are two Cloth Halls in Leeds, of vast size, containing more than 3000 stands for selling cloth. The one is appropriated for the sale of mixed cloth, or that which is made from dyed wool, and the other for white cloth. They are hence distinguished by the name of Mixed-Cloth Hall, and White-Cloth Hall. The latter is a large quadrangular building 297 feet in length, and 210 in breadth, and is divided into five streets, as they are called, each of which contains two rows of stands. To these places the domestic cloth manufacturers resort from

various parts of the adjacent country and neighbourhood, and expose to sale their undressed cloths, rough, as they come from the fulling-mills. These are purchased by the merchants, who employ dressers, dyers, &c. to finish them.

The clothing business has nearly doubled the population of Leeds within the last thirty years.* The great bulk of its manufacture consists of the coarser kinds of cloth, though latterly the production of superfines has greatly increased. Linen factories have also been recently established, as well as several iron founderies, which have acquired a great degree of reputation. Under the guidance of a friend I spent part of the day in viewing some of the larger manufactories. The flax-mill of Marshall and Co. is one of the most extensive. The steam engine which moves the machinery, is a remarkably complete and elegant instrument. Its power is seventy horses; the fly-wheel is thirty feet in diameter, and the cylinder four feet. It has three boilers, two of which are constantly in operation. It works by sliding valves, and with such admirable precision as to produce no jar or noise. But the most novel and singular application of steam, which I have yet observed, is in the transportation of coal from the mine to the borders of the town, upon an iron rail-way, by means of a steam wagon. The shaft of the mine is on the top of a hill about two miles from Leeds. The loaded wagons, in descending the hill, to its base, draw the empty ones, by means of chains and pullies, to the top. From the foot of the hill a level road has been made to the place of discharge near the town, on

* By the last enumeration, (1822) it amounted to 83,796.

which an iron rail-way has been constructed. The steam wagon is about ten feet long, and contains a high pressure engine, with its fire-place, chimney, boilers, &c. The engine has two pistons, which turn a cog-wheel, fixed between the two near wheels of the carriage. This cog, or ratchet wheel, runs upon a toothed rail-way, adapted to it on that side of the road. This toothed rail is outside of that on which the wagon wheels move, but is cast with it into one piece. The rails consist of pieces of iron, about three feet long, nicely adjusted to each other. Twenty-five loaded wagons, each containing one and a quarter tons of coal, were, on this occasion, attached, one after another, to the steam wagon, and drawn with ease, and with no inconsiderable velocity. The coal wagons, together with their charge, weighed each three and a half tons, so that the whole weight drawn by the steam wagon was eighty-seven and a half tons. Occasionally, thirty or more loaded wagons are put in motion, amounting to at least one hundred tons. Each loaded wagon is pushed, at the extremity of the rail road, on a bridge, through an opening in which the coal is discharged into the carts, which convey it to the places where it is wanted.

This new and extraordinary mode of conveying goods by land, demonstrates, as forcibly, perhaps as the application of steam to navigation, the vast importance of this power in promoting the useful arts, and increasing the products of human industry. Who beside the Marquis of Worcester, could have conjectured, one hundred years ago, that coal itself would ever be made the means by which this material, now so essential to the prosperity of England.

should be raised from its profoundest subterranean repositories to the surface of the earth, and thence conveyed either by land or water, as occasion requires, to the busy manufactory, and there to be employed as a substitute for human labour!

24th. I came out last evening to Rawdon, a manufacturing village, eight miles from Leeds, where several friends reside, who are extensively concerned in the cloth business. One of them, (* *****) at whose house I was very kindly entertained, conducted me this morning through their factory, in which about 5000 yards of cloth are made every week. This mill appeared to me to be a model of perfect skill, both in its arrangement and management. It is warmed by steam, from the boiler of an engine, of about fourteen horse power, which engine is the prime mover of the machinery. To produce the requisite warmth, there are four rows of steam pipes in the upper story of the mill, three rows in the middle, and two in the first story. The whole of the premises is lighted by coal gas, by means of an apparatus, which, with the building that contains the furnaces, &c. has been erected at an aggregate cost of £700. One hundred weight of coal, yields 400 cubic feet of gas. Cannel coal alone is used for the distillation. It costs here one shilling per cwt. and the coke is equal in value to the coal which heats the retorts. The gazo-meter holds 1500 cubic feet. About 150 lights are kept burning, most of them all night, for the machinery is in constant operation, night and day. The average saving between the gas lights, and those formerly used, including the wear of the apparatus, is about twelve pounds per week. The practice of continu-

ing the manufactories throughout the night, has lately been adopted in England, to a considerable extent. It affords no inconsiderable security to the premises, against the danger of fire, and the assaults of the *croppers*, who have frequently, of late, assembled in mobs, and committed extensive depredations. It enables the owners to turn their capital to greater advantage; and it affords opportunities to the workmen, to exert their industry to the utmost extent of their capacity. This last consideration is, however, on the score of humanity, extremely objectionable. A large proportion of the persons employed in these factories, it is well known, are children. What pecuniary advantage, can possibly compensate, for the loss of health and morals, which these poor creatures unavoidably sustain, by such midnight toil and exposure? It is true, they work by relays, and are permitted to take a certain share of repose and relaxation; but when such temptations are held out to the avarice or the indolence of unenlightened parents, nothing but the strictest regulations of a humane owner, or master, can afford sufficient protection to these juvenile labourers.* The employment of both sexes, in the same crowded factory, is found to be inevitably attended with demoralizing effects. These effects are guarded against, with scrupulous caution, in this establishment, and doubtless in many others; but no caution can entirely obviate the evil; and it is to be feared, that remedial regulations are, in many cases, great-

* The parliamentary interposition, on behalf of the employment of children in manufactories, before alluded to, will doubtless contribute, in a great degree, to prevent impositions; and I have since learned, that children are rarely employed in cloth factories, during the night.

ly neglected. The labourers in this excellent establishment of my friend *****, earn,—the men, from thirteen to thirty shillings per week, according to their skill;—women, about twelve shillings; and the youngest children, three shillings. The prices of wool, I was informed, agreeably to the last sales, varied from ten pence to ten shillings per pound. The Spanish and Saxon are the highest. American wool varies from one shilling and six pence, to one shilling and eleven pence per pound. Excepting Scotch wool, it is the lowest on the list of prices, an inferiority occasioned, in a great measure, by the quantity of dirt which accompanies it across the ocean. It is singular that no substitute, of equal efficacy, has yet been found for the excrements of men and swine, in the cleansing of this important article. The latter is found to be the best, during the season of grass.

In returning to Leeds, I stopped to view the ruins of Kirkstall Abbey. This is the grandest specimen of ancient ruins, I have yet beheld; and is second, perhaps, to none in the kingdom, for its massive extent, and for the solemn feeling which its venerable aspect can scarcely fail to inspire. The principal part of the ruin, is the remains of the church, of which the nave, side aisles, and transepts, are nearly perfect. The columns of the nave, are composed of massive materials, which support heavy pointed arches. A curiously ornamented window, and a fine door way, are in good preservation, on the west side, and on the south, are the remains of the dormitory, kitchen, and other rooms. These very picturesque ruins, are the remains of an abbey of Cistercian monks, founded, it is said, in the reign of king Stephen. No American

traveller, who visits Leeds, should omit to ride three miles, to view this interesting pile. From the crumbling nature of the materials, I could not but feel some surprise, that it had so long withstood the shock of the elements, without a greater extent of dilapidation. A considerable portion of the church, had recently fallen down; but centuries will still elapse, ere it becomes like the tower of Belus, entirely obliterated, unless the corrosions of time are assisted by the more ruthless devastations of human art. These ruins, probably yield only to those of Fountain abbey, in another part of the same riding, in picturesque sublimity.

I attended a lecture, this evening, in Leeds, delivered by Dr. N****, who was an assistant to Dr. Moyse, the blind philosopher, so celebrated both in England and America, as a most entertaining lecturer on various branches of physical science, though deprived of one of the senses which one would suppose the most essential in the performance of experiments. I never heard Dr. Moyse, but I have been often told that his chemical and even optical experiments were exhibited with great dexterity and success. The lecture read this evening was, I was informed, nearly the same as that of Dr. Moyse. The style was too florid to please the taste of those accustomed to the plain path of scientific illustration.

Several parts of the town of Leeds aspire to elegance in the size and structure of the houses, and general neatness of the streets and shops. It is a thronged and busy place, but the recent depressions of trade have occasioned severe distress among the labouring classes.

25th. At eight I took the coach for York. The

ground, for the first time this winter, was covered with snow, and the air was cold and chilly. The country is much more open and wooded than in the south of England, and of course reminds me more of home.

I must acknowledge that I have not found, in the stage passengers of this country, so much of that reserve and taciturn coldness, as some writers impute to the English character. There has generally been as much readiness to engage in conversation, and to communicate information, as a stranger could reasonably ask for. An Englishman requires, perhaps, a little more time to *break the ice* of a new acquaintanceship, than a Frenchman; but when decently addressed, the instances have been rare, in which I have not met with a civil and obliging demeanour, in the public coaches. There is far less of the frivolous joking, and light, wordy conversation, which one must become accustomed to, in the French conveyances. Cases of self-sufficiency and egotism, do nevertheless occur, and in persons, from whose understandings, one might expect a more rational style of conversation. I am led to this remark, from having been exposed, in the ride of this morning, to the inflated talk of a well-looking man, from Stockport, who plied me most copiously with his opinions upon politics, and various other subjects, but more particularly on religion; allowing no opinions to have much weight, which did not coincide with his own. Religion is a topic, which a traveller through France is not much disturbed with. Excepting occasional gibes against the priests, and laughable anecdotes of the superstition of devotees, it is seldom brought into notice; but in Eng-

lish coaches, there is no subject, I am inclined to think, which gives rise to more conversation and controversy.

In the ride of this morning, we passed Bramham Park, the seat of James Fox, Esq. whose name, if I may rely on the information of the coach passengers, is as appropriate to his favourite pursuit, as is that of *Slipper* to a son of Crispin. So fond is he of the chase, that he actually maintains 300 pairs of hounds, the expense of which, including, of course, a number of persons to take care of them, I was told, is £7000, or \$30,000, a year. But this extraordinary passion must be rather the love of hounds than of foxes.

The city of York is situated in too flat a region to make a conspicuous figure at a distance, were it not for its noble Minster, which is seen towering above the adjacent buildings, like a majestic oak in an orchard of fruit trees.

LETTER XXXI.

Edinburgh, 3d month, (March) 4, 1819.

MY DEAR ***** AND *****,

To my friend S. T***, whose well directed efforts and very judicious writings on behalf of the insane, have placed him in a distinguished rank among men of talents and benevolence, I am indebted, while at York, for a kind and agreeable home, and the most friendly attentions. His worthy and venerable grandfather, W. T***, whom I met in London last year, and who is now in his eighty-fifth year, conducted me in

the afternoon to the Minster. Such a guide to such an edifice! It was enough to arouse every latent feeling for the venerable. Mere verbal description, in this case, as in others which I have noticed, can convey but little of the impression, which the survey of such an edifice produces on the mind. The astonishment occasioned by its vastness and its antiquity, the delight produced by such an exhibition of human power and skill, and, (whatever our peculiar views with respect to the nature of Christian worship,) the involuntary respect one is obliged to pay, to such an appropriation of wealth and talent, under the belief that the motives to it were sincere,—give rise to a certain tone of feeling, which can be no where enjoyed but in those ancient edifices.

The Minster is about twenty-four feet longer than St. Pauls in London, viz. 524 feet. Its breadth, however, from the west door to the choir, is but 264, while that of St. Paul's is 306. The width of the cross aisles of the Minster, from north to south is 222—of St. Paul's 248 feet. Their other dimensions are nearly similar, except that the height of the two western towers of St. Paul's, is 25 feet greater than those of the Minster, and instead of the lofty and magnificent dome of the former, the latter has only a lantern tower of 235 feet in height. But the age of the York cathedral, and its grand Gothic architecture, render it, in my estimation, a far more interesting object. In this, as in many other ancient edifices of the kingdom, different parts have been erected at different epochs. It is now nearly 600 years since the commencement of the south end of the cross aisle or transept, by Archbishop Grey, in the time of

Henry III. and the entire finishing did not take place till the reign of Henry V. about A. D. 1413.

It appears from the researches of antiquaries, that the style of architecture common to the ancient churches of this country, and generally denominated Gothic, would with greater propriety be called English. Its most obvious characteristic, is the high pointed arch, which was introduced about the time of the commencement of the York cathedral, under Henry III. It supplanted the semicircular Saxon arch, which is now rarely to be met with, though a beautiful specimen of it remains at the gateway, near the collegiate church in Bristol. This venerable building is therefore regarded throughout, as a splendid specimen of the *early* English; there being little doubt that the high pointed arch, struck from two centres, was first invented in this country, or at least that it was here brought to its highest state of perfection. The pavement of the interior of this church is modern. It is a kind of mosaic, designed by Lord Burlington, and well adapted to the extent and grandeur of the building. There is perhaps no edifice in the kingdom, in which the ornamented windows are in more perfect preservation, and none which will more highly excite the admiration of strangers. In the south end are three tiers of windows; that at the top, is in the form of a wheel, or marigold, and the glass is so variegated as to represent that rich flower. Its brilliant appearance resembles very closely, the effect of a good kaleidoscope, greatly magnified. The north end is adorned with five noble lights, which are so placed as to constitute one large window, reaching almost from top to bottom. The

coloured glass represents rich embroidery or needle work, and a small border of clear glass is run round their edge, which adds much to their beauty. The great window over the western entrance, is esteemed a most admirable light, though not equal in size to its opposite. The painting or tracery, is probably no where exceeded. The eight first archbishops are here delineated in full size. But the greatest wonder in point of masonry and glazing, is the eastern window, the grand termination of the choir. It is the work of John Thornton of Coventry, in the reign of Henry IV. at which time it is supposed the art had existed in England at least a century. The upper part of this window is elegantly traced, and below are 117 partitions, representing as many transactions recorded in the scriptures, chiefly in Genesis and Revelations. On one side of this window, is placed a painted glass, given to the dean and chapter in 1804, by the Earl of Carlisle. It was brought from the church of St. Nicholas in Rouen. The subject is the Annunciation, or the meeting of the Virgin Mary and Elizabeth, in figures as large as life.

The monuments of this cathedral, are not very remarkable, and I spent little time in viewing them. The effect of the whole coup-d'oeil of the immense area of the interior, is greatly enhanced by the numerous clusters of columns in the different aisles, the capitals of the pillars exhibiting a variety of design, no one capital having the same foliage continued around it. The chaste grandeur, too, of the high pointed style of architecture, is no where seen in greater perfection. One of the arches crosses the whole middle aisle and is supposed to be the largest

in Europe. On the top of the side arches, an open gallery runs on each side of the nave, and over this is an upper tier of elegantly painted windows, containing various images and armorial bearings. The choir is separated from the church by a magnificent screen, on which is a variety of sculpture. The stalls, sixty-six in number, are all executed in oak and curiously carved, each one being assigned to its particular dignitary, by a *written label*. Upon the whole, this great cathedral appears to me to be the most magnificent specimen of this ancient and rich style of church architecture, which I have seen. The great duomo of Milan is more costly and imposing in its exterior, but it falls, in my estimation, far short of the York Minster, and indeed of several other of the ancient edifices of England, in chastness of proportion, and elegance and neatness of ornament.

Is it surprising that the church of England, assembling as it does, in edifices which continually present so much of the splendour and devotedness, the pomp and taste and decoration of Catholic worship, should still retain so much of its ceremonials in practice; and, in the formalities at least, of its externals, deviate so widely from the example of Him, who declared, that, "Ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem worship the Father; but the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers, shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him."

I attended this evening a lecture on mechanics, by W*****, an itinerant teacher of philosophy, who has acquired considerable reputation, as a fluent and perspicuous lecturer. His apparatus is neat and well

chosen. His models of the steam engine excel in beauty, costliness, and variety, those of any of the numerous collections of apparatus that have fallen under my notice. To satisfy my curiosity after the lecture, he was obliging enough to kindle the lamp under the boiler of a little steam carriage, less than a foot in length, and placing it on the floor, it moved with celerity across the room. The boiler, I should imagine, did not hold more than half a pint. There is scarcely a town of considerable note, in Great Britain, which is not sometimes visited by these travelling lecturers, who, by means of portable apparatus, and a facility in communicating instruction, impart the benefits of useful knowledge to hundreds and thousands who might otherwise remain destitute of its advantages. The multiplication of the means of gaining information, even in those branches of instruction, which, a few years ago, were confined to colleges and universities, is a conspicuous feature of the present day. The time, it may be presumed, is rapidly passing by, when, even of the retired and laborious inhabitants of the hamlet, it can with truth be said,

“ But knowledge to their eyes, her ample page,
Rich with the spoils of time, did ne’er unrol.”

And if the arts and sciences, the moral, physical, and intellectual condition of England, be taken as a commentary on the benefits of extended knowledge, and universal instruction, no one who has travelled much over Europe, will consider the result of such benevolence, to be in the least degree dubious or equivocal.

26th. Under the guidance of my intelligent host, went this morning to the castle. Under this name are

comprehended the criminal's and debtor's prison, the governor's house, and the court houses. The court yard, into which we first entered, is spacious. We went into the prison, and found about thirty persons waiting for trial, at the next assizes. There have been as many as eighty felons at a time, in this prison. Their legs were loaded with chains, and the cells appeared to me to be very dark. The yards are small, but supplied with water, and the means of warm and cold bathing, are furnished in the prison. Those sentenced to a temporary confinement, are kept apart from the other prisoners, and are employed in making laces, caps, garters, &c. which are sold in the great court. The debtors also, whose apartments are mostly over the governor's house, employ themselves in making various articles, which are sold to the public in the court-yard. The prisoners are allowed one and a half pounds of wheat bread per day, and one shilling, or one shilling and six pence per week. The common yard, in which they are permitted to assemble, is separated only by a double grating, from the great court, and hence it is easy for them to converse, not only with the debtors, but with the public, who are permitted freely to enter the yard. It is strange, that such an injurious intercourse should ever have been permitted. The chaplain of the prison attends three times a week, to read prayers, and he preaches twice. An interesting and satisfactory attempt has recently been made, by two benevolent and pious females, to give religious instruction to the male prisoners. Clothed with the same spirit of Christian benevolence, which prompted the efforts in Newgate, in which the public have felt so

much interest, these worthy females, have entered these dismal abodes of guilt and distress, and, by the peculiar energy of Gospel love, have been able to claim the attention, and to awaken the dormant sensibilities of a number of their wretched inhabitants, to a sense of the spiritual darkness, in which they were involved. Such examples, it appears to me, are worthy of all imitation, wherever vice has brought its victims to the cells of a prison, and men or women can be found, rightly qualified to administer to the condition of these wretched outcasts from society. The qualification is doubtless peculiar. The authority, by which alone, this dungeon of the soul can be effectually entered, is, perhaps, never more powerful, than when accompanied with the meekness and purity of female excellence.

In company with the deputy sheriff, we went through the court rooms. They are large, and very neatly arranged. From the castle we went to the Retreat, or asylum for the insane, under the direction of the society of Friends. The excellent description of this establishment, by my friend Samuel Tuke, which has been republished and much read in America, renders it unnecessary for me to go much into particulars. There are, at present, thirty-six women, and twenty-eight men, in this asylum. The former are divided into three classes, and the latter into two, according to their different stages of insanity. We first entered the room of the convalescent men. The peculiarity of their condition, was very striking. A company of grave looking Friends, dressed in the costume of the society, and presenting the image of sober and rational reflection, formed so remarkable a

contrast, with the noise and vehemence of a French lunatic hospital, as to make it difficult for the imagination, to realise the fact of their mental alienation. In each room is a chair, in which the refractory are seated, and tied by a band round the waist, and to which the hands are fastened by a strap and buckle. Every part of the house is kept in good order. The beds, at least in the women's rooms, have curtains extended round the head. Some of the females employ themselves, with their needles, in making articles which they are permitted to dispose of to visitors; and they appear to derive, from such a fancied sale, as much entertainment, as if it constituted the means of their support. Some of the least affected of the female patients, were engaged in quilting, in the room of the superintendent. As the buildings of this institution, were erected prior to the modern improvements in the construction of asylums, it does not possess all the conveniences, with respect to warming, cleansing, classification of the patients, &c. that are found at Derby, Wakefield, and other places. Indeed the experience of the intelligent directors of the Retreat, have paved the way for those improvements. A building called the Lodge, has lately been erected behind the principal fabric, for the accommodation of patients of the higher class, and provided with warm and cold baths, and ornamented in front with a varanda, supported by light columns, resting on a gravel walk, on which the patients can promenade, either under the shade, or completely exposed to the air. A gentle declivity, of two or three acres, extends from this walk, and is used as an airing ground. The Lodge is connected with the main building, by a long

covered gallery, well lighted, and neatly finished. Patients who are able to pay a higher price, are accommodated in the Lodge, with servants of their own, if necessary, to attend them. Great credit is due to the superintendent of this institution, G. J*****, and to his wife, for their judicious management of its concerns.

This excellent establishment, the principles of which have served as a model for so many others, in different parts of the world, originated chiefly with W. Tuke, aided by Lindley Murray, and a few other active coadjutors. It was at first designed solely for *members* of the society of Friends, but has since been extended to others in connection with it. The lowest sum paid for board, washing, medical advice, and all necessaries except clothing, is *four shillings* per week,—eight shillings for the next class, and for others rising, according to circumstances, to several guineas per week.

To induce those who have the care of persons afflicted with the loss of reason, to remove them from their families, at an early stage, the managers make a considerable abatement in their terms, for those who are brought to the Retreat, within six months after the first appearance of the disease.

27th. Among the social occurrences, which I shall remember with the most pleasure, is a visit this afternoon, to our very estimable countryman, Lindley Murray. He still resides at the little village of Holdgate, about three quarters of a mile from the city. His increasing infirmity of body, has latterly been such, as to prevent him from receiving the visits of strangers. But coming from the city of his nativity,

and acquainted with his nearest relations, he was induced to yield to my request, and grant me an interview. Though so weak as to converse only in a low whisper, and scarcely able to bear his own weight, from pain and debility, he has been enabled, by the power of a strong and well balanced mind; and what is more, by the exercise of the Christian virtues, to gain a complete ascendancy over himself, and to exhibit an instance of meekness, patience, and humility, which affords, I may truly say, one of the most edifying examples I have ever beheld. His mind is still clear, sound, and discriminating; and he feels the interest of a true philanthropist, in the progress of education, and the general welfare of his fellow-creatures. I have been informed, by persons who were his youthful cotemporaries, that he was possessed by nature of great vivacity of feeling, and passions not less difficult to control, than what falls to the ordinary lot of humanity. But so effectually have the graces of the Christian surmounted the waywardness of nature, and diffused their benign influence over the whole tenor of his mind, as to produce upon his countenance, a lustre and a sweetness of expression, "with less of earth in them than heaven."

The temperature of his bed-room and parlour is regulated by the thermometer with great nicety. A constant care of this kind, joined to the most temperate exactness in diet, has enabled him to live without exercise, to support a frame of unusual debility, and to prolong to old age, a life of the greatest usefulness to *millions* of his fellow-creatures. Having brought with him to England a fortune competent to his moderate wants, he has devoted the whole profit

of his literary labours to the promotion of various benevolent institutions, and to other deeds of charity. He has been blessed with a most amiable and intelligent wife, the companion of his early years, and the faithful and sympathizing partner in all that concerns him. They have no children. A young woman, who serves them as housekeeper, appears also well qualified, by the respectability of her character and acquirements, to perform the duties of an almost filial trust. It is thirty-four years since this worthy pair left their native shores; but their feelings are still American; and to listen to a particular relation of the enlargement of our cities, and the progress of the country, afforded them evidently the most lively satisfaction; while, at the same time, a consideration of the smallness of the number of the numerous acquaintance they left behind, who are now on the stage of life, gave to the conversation a placid melancholy, which served but to increase the warmth and tenderness of such an interview.

I had the pleasure of an introduction, on the day of my arrival, to C. Cappe, widow of the late Newcombe Cappe, a celebrated minister of the Unitarian sect. This lady holds a conspicuous rank among those of the present age who have brought to the exercise of benevolence, a cultivated and discriminating mind, and a feeling heart. By her patronage, the poems of Charlotte Richardson, an extraordinary instance of talent in the humblest walks of life, were ushered into the world in two volumes. She has been instrumental in giving a character of intelligence and judgment to the charities of York, and by the publication of her interesting and instructive "Observa-

tions on Charity Schools, Female Friendly Societies, &c." published in 1805, she contributed to enlighten the public mind on this important subject. Her conversation and manners are correspondent with the character of judgment, kindness, and literary taste which she has so justly acquired.*

Were it admissible, I might speak in terms of the highest satisfaction of several members of my own sect, who reside in this city. One of them the daughter of my venerable friend W. T***, will long be remembered in America, as well as in England, for the value of her pious labours as a minister of the Gospel. Her enlightened and liberal mind is active in promoting the cause of virtue. As one of those, before alluded to, who have entered the prison as messengers of Christian love, she has opened the way for the exercise of charity in a new and interesting sphere.

28th. At meeting to-day, I observed a number of the patients of the "Retreat." Some of them are fond of attending religious meetings, and their deportment is, in general, such as to encourage the managers in granting them the liberty. It would appear evident from this and other trials, that religious exercises, far from increasing the exacerbations of maniacal disease, tend, upon the whole, to calm and relieve it.

After the second meeting to-day, I accompanied my friend S. Tuke, to the York Lunatic Asylum, situated about half a mile from the city, and on the side opposite to that of the Retreat. This is a large and handsome building, and at present accommodates about seventy men and forty women. The sexes are quite

* Since deceased.

distinct. The organization of this institution has undergone a most important change, since the publication of S. Tuke's Account of the Retreat in 1813. The recommendation, in that work, of a milder system of treatment than had been usually practised, led to a spirited controversy between him and the physician of the asylum; and being conducted in the public prints, it was sustained by the public interest, until it produced a complete revolution in this establishment. The physician was displaced, and it was found that in consequence of the influence he had acquired over the governors, and the blind confidence that had been placed in his management, abuses to an enormous extent had been practised, unknown to the board. The far safer and more salutary method pursued in the Retreat, was afterwards adopted, of allowing no salary to the physician, and subjecting every part of the institution to regular and faithful inspection. S. Tuke frequently attends at the Asylum, on first day afternoons, to collect such of the patients as are tolerably quiet, and read to them a portion of the Scriptures. About thirty were assembled this afternoon. Several chapters of the Testament, and a Psalm, were read to them, without interruption, though their various attitudes, looks, and gestures could scarcely fail to amuse the gravest spectator. The exercise appeared to have an agreeable effect. One of the lunatics, at the suggestion of my friend, sung one of Watts's hymns in a very simple chaunt, but with a melody and sweetness of voice, not surpassed by any thing of the kind I ever heard. This Asylum is one hundred and thirty-two feet long, fifty-two in depth, and three stories high. A

spacious gravel walk, between a double row of lime trees, extends from the Asylum to the public road, about a quarter of a mile. I observed at this early season, that the flowers in the open ground, and even on the north side of the hedges, had sprung up, and were expanding their bloom to the sun and air.

The city of York has a population of about 20,000. Its ancient walls are still standing, though in many places fallen into decay. They were formerly very strongly fortified. The population of the immediate suburbs, is far short of its former extent, when the ancient Eboracum was the rival of London in rank and influence. The interior of the city is not pleasant. The streets are narrow and crooked, and the proportion of good or elegant houses, much smaller than in towns of more recent date. The river Ouse, which runs through the town, is a small stream, but sufficient for sloops of considerable size. The valley in which the city is situated, is considered as one of the richest and most extensive in Europe. York, though so much inferior in wealth and extent to many other cities, is the second in Great-Britain in point of rank. It gives the title of duke to the second son of the king. It is a county of itself, and an archbishoprick, whose incumbent is primate and metropolitan of England, and has, in consequence, the honour of crowning the queen. The palace of the archbishop is situated three miles from the city, on the banks of the Ouse.

3d month, 1st. The mail coaches leave York for all parts of the kingdom, at midnight. I parted from my kind and worthy friends, S. T*** and family, with gratitude for the many social delights, which, during

a fleeting sojourn of three and a half days, I have been permitted to enjoy, in this ancient and venerable capital of the north.

Arriving at Darlington, on the southern border of the county of Durham, early in the morning, I spent the greater part of the day in looking through this pleasant town, under the direction of a friend, at whose house I met with a kind and polite reception. He conducted me through his own large and beautiful manufactory of worsted, the machinery and manipulations of which, are in admirable perfection. In consequence of several conflagrations in these buildings, they are now made fire-proof,—not in the flimsy way that is frequently practised, but by introducing iron beams and joists, laying a floor of smooth flag stones, and erecting rafters of iron and a roof of slate. The lathes and other apparatus for making the spinning machinery, are constructed in the factory, and operate by water power. The spinning process is conducted by the joint effects of water and steam.

We went through the cattle market, which, though not so full as at some seasons, exhibited a great number of noble looking animals. This county, (Durham) is, I believe, noted for the production of fine cattle. A bull of superior breed, will sometimes bring in the market, 800 or 1000 guineas. So dexterous are the graziers, in the art of cross breeding, that they are able, as I have been informed, to lengthen or shorten, reduce or extend, not only the bodies or the legs of their favourite species, but the necks or the shoulders, the fore or the hinder parts, and to add flesh to this part or to that; so wonderful is the effect of human skill, even in the art of cattle raising.

that the great Durham ox is no longer a prodigy. It has been surpassed in my native county, (Salem) in the State of New-Jersey. The English cattle, it must be confessed, are, in general, better than ours; but the difference is not so great as I could have imagined. The beef of this country, is more uniformly excellent than that in the best markets of America, but beef may be easily obtained in Philadelphia or New-York, equal to the finest English beef.

We visited a private boarding school kept by a friend, (F. H. S.) and conducted, apparently, with much efficiency, in relation both to the intellectual and moral progress of the pupils. The number of the latter, is now about twenty, and yet there are two distinct classes, separated chiefly by price and the nature of the studies which they pursue. Private boarding schools of a superior order, are much more common among the society of Friends in this country, than in the United States; though the society here is less numerous, and in the aggregate, perhaps, not more wealthy. But notwithstanding all the advantages, which the best private boarding schools can afford, I cannot but believe, that if the united wisdom and prudence of the society were directed to the establishment, both here and at home, of a large and well endowed public school or college, for the higher branches of learning and science, very essential benefits would result to our youth; and the soundest principles of our profession, receive a confirmation, that would go further toward their preservation, than by any other step or procedure, which it is in the power of the society to adopt. I am persuaded, that the friends of humanity and vir-

tue among other sects, would be glad to see such an evidence of liberality and good taste, as this would demonstrate; for there is as little of the spirit of proselytism among us, probably, as in any other body of professing Christians. The general habits of this society are, moreover, deemed to be, in a particular manner, favourable to the cultivation of useful knowledge. The day, we may hope, is nearly passed, in which it has been supposed that ignorance is necessary to the propagation of truth, or that the purest principles of morality and of Christianity, will not receive strength, power, and influence, by the increasing cultivation of the higher faculties of our nature. Truth, indeed, is a unit; and whether it be sought after by the metaphysician, the mathematician, the astronomer, the chemist, or the Christian, it will be found, that there is nothing discordant in its doctrines, but that it conspires, in all its parts, if rightly pursued, to the production of a harmonious result—the dignity and happiness of its votary.

At three o'clock, I took the coach for Newcastle, gratified, as I had much reason to be, with the entertainment of the morning. We passed through Durham as the evening began to close upon us, and could only discover that it had an ancient aspect. The fires of the coal pits were blazing around us, as we advanced, and at nine o'clock, the lamps and gas lights of Newcastle, emitted to my eyes a more welcome light. The distance from York to Newcastle is 80 miles.

2d. I walked out after breakfast, to the country seat of a friend, a mile from the town, and from thence was conducted to the Benwell colliery, one of the nearest to the city. I did not think it prudent to ex-

pose myself to the damp vapours of the mine, and the unavoidable fatigue and exposure of a descent. The Rutland cavern, at Matlock, with its sinuosities and contractions, had given me, as I conceived, a tolerably correct idea of a mine; at least, it was easy for the imagination to depict the rest. The Benwell colliery is 573 feet in depth. The thickness of the seam of coal, now in working, averages forty inches. About thirty men, forty boys, and nine horses, are employed in hewing and elevating the coal. And they can draw up thirty-five score of corves, each containing four bushels, in one day, making about 2800 bushels. From the top of the shaft to the river, the descent is nearly half a mile in length. Down this descent the coals are conveyed on a rail-way, the loaded wagons weighing about four and a half tons. The momentum of their descent, is sufficient to raise a weight of one ton, from the bottom of a pit, situated at about the middle of the rail-way, and the descent of this weight brings up the empty wagons from the river to the pit, and thence they are drawn to the top of the inclined plane, by the impetus of the loaded carriages. A full wagon goes down in three and a half minutes, and an empty one is brought up in the same time. The velocity of this motion is easily regulated by pressing the end of a lever against the wheel, round which hangs the rope that suspends the weight. Such an application of the force of gravity, furnished a philosophical experiment, upon a scale of magnitude no less interesting than it was novel.

In going to the mine, we crossed the fosse of the old Roman wall, which was begun by the Emperor Adrian, A. D. 124, and which extended from the German

Ocean to the Irish Sea, a distance of about 68 miles. This wall was erected by the Romans to defend the Britons against the incursions of the Picts.

Newcastle is lighted by coal gas. The manufactory is managed by A. C*****, (the friend who kindly conducted me to the Westminster gas works, London,) in a neat style, but with less, perhaps, of the economy of recent improvements, than at Ipswich and some other places. More than a hundred retorts are mounted in four ranges over the furnaces. The ammoniacal fluid, which separates from the distilled products, is converted into muriate of ammonia. The superiority of this mode of lighting, is every where manifest.

3d. Newcastle has a literary and philosophical society, whose meetings appear to be well supported. An introduction to W. T*****, a clerical gentleman of considerable literary reputation, and one of the lecturers of the society, opened the way this morning, for a visit to their rooms. They have a good library and reading room, and a collection of philosophical apparatus, which belonged to the late Dr. Garnett, but it is not kept in good order. From this place my intelligent and learned guide conducted me to the castle, and to a chamber of it occupied by the antiquarian society. Never did a society of antiquarians meet in an apartment more appropriate to their duties. This castle was built by a younger son of William the conqueror, and was often the temporary residence of kings. It was in this castle, that Baliol, king of Scotland, did homage to Edward for the crown of his kingdom. It is now in ruins, and indeed, in the beginning of the sixteenth century, it had lost so much

of its pristine grandeur, that it was let to an incorporated company of taylor's, at the annual rent of one pound. The outer walls are thirteen feet in thickness, but excepting a room for the keeper, no part of the castle is tenantable, but that which has been fitted up by the antiquarian society. Here they have deposited a curious collection of Roman and other relics, obtained chiefly from the town and neighbourhood.

The charity schools of this town are well supported. The largest, called the Royal Jubilee School, was erected in commemoration of the king's entrance into the fiftieth year of his reign. It contains 450 boys. Another for girls, contains 300. In hearing one of the classes read, I was surprised at the singular and disagreeable twang of the voice, in which even the monitors indulged themselves. It arises from the provincial habits of this county, and is certainly more unpleasant to the ear, than any of the provincialisms I have yet heard. It rendered the reading, to me, almost unintelligible. The ordinary conversation of the uneducated classes, I found, on this account, scarcely more easy of comprehension than an unknown, foreign tongue.

Newcastle is a corporate city, independent of the county of Northumberland. It has received from time to time many royal privileges, accompanied, however, with an expectation, if not an injunction, that in consideration of such favours, certain additions should be made to the king's treasury. There are several societies, or companies, who have the privilege of making the sons and apprentices of their mem-

bers, freemen of the town; and without being a free man, no freeholder has a vote for members of parliament. The manufactory of glass is, perhaps, more considerable than any other branch of industry in this city, excepting the trade in coal. The duty on glass alone, is computed to yield more than £200,000, annually to government. Cloth and soap manufactories, and rope making, are also largely conducted. The glass houses and roperies extend about two miles down the river. Iron and steel works are also common. Its commerce in coal is known to be more extensive than that of any other port in the world. Upwards of 600,000 chaldron have been exported in a year, to foreign parts, and coastwise. The population of this town is about 35,000. Some parts of it are well built, but its general appearance, and especially those parts of the town near the Tyne, are dark, irregular, and inelegant.

4th. The coach left Newcastle this morning, at five; and a worthy and excellent friend (R. F*****) at whose house I have been much at home, was kindly attentive to “speed the parting guest.” My acquaintance, during the short stay I have made here, has been mostly confined to those of my own sect; and I have found among them a number of very agreeable and intelligent people. Few persons, in conversation, have a more classical turn than my host, whom I had met before in London; and in several of the branches of his family I found much to interest me.

It was dark for some time after the coach set off, and the light of the fires at the coal pits shone through the misty atmosphere, with a splendour at once novel

and interesting. The towns on the Northumberland coast are numerous, and the country often wore a smiling and agreeable aspect.

Morpeth, fifteen miles from Newcastle, is a corporate borough, containing about 3000 inhabitants. Its two members of Parliament are chosen by about 200 freemen, while Leeds, with its 80,000 inhabitants, has no such privilege. These rotten parts (as they have been called) of the British constitution, appear, at the present time, as unlikely to wear away as the rest of the fabric. Though they must be regarded as great blemishes, when tested by the principle of equal representation, which is the strength and glory of our own government, they are certainly, when taken in connexion with the whole of that system of which they form a part, not without their advantages. They afford the means of bringing into Parliament men of superior talents and information; and though I am by no means prepared to say that the whole body of the nation is now as fairly represented as it would be on the principle of universal suffrage, I could not, without a more extensive acquaintance with facts, assert, that such a change, could it be effected without the least disorder, would essentially contribute to the stability of the government, or the perfection of British laws. When the constitution of a government requires that every member of its legislature shall be a resident of the district he represents, it must necessarily happen, that a very considerable proportion of this body will consist of men, by no means distinguished for political wisdom,—men of mere local information,—unqualified to act upon questions of great political moment. But when

a number of corporate towns, or boroughs, are at liberty to select their representatives from any part of the country, it is reasonable to suppose that their attention will naturally be turned to men of distinguished reputation in political science, or to men of tried patriotism and virtue. It is thus that Bramber has its Wilberforce, Liverpool its Canning, and numerous other boroughs and towns their representatives among the most popular and useful members of Parliament, that never did, and never will, reside among their constituents.

At Alnwick, a neat town about five miles from the German Ocean, I availed myself of the short delay of changing horses to take a peep at the castle, celebrated as the theatre of many famous doings in the border warfare of the north. This castle was founded in Saxon times. Malcolm, king of Scotland, lost his life before it; and, at a later period, William III. also king of Scotland, was taken prisoner while besieging this formidable bulwark. It was anciently ornamented with figures of warriors distributed round the battlements, and the present proprietors have continued them and supplied some that were destroyed. This castle was purchased by Lord Henry de Percy, one of the greatest barons of the north, in the year 1309, and it has continued ever since in possession of the Lords de Percy, and their successors, the Earls of Northumberland. There are few, if any, of the ancient baronial seats of the kingdom, more distinguished than this, in the classic history of the nation. Its interior is magnificently arranged and furnished. The cornice of the ceiling, above the great central stair-case, is enriched with a series of 120 escut-

cheons, displaying the principal quarterings and intermarriages of the Percy family. The chapel has been designed after the most perfect models of Gothic excellence. The great east window is taken from one of the finest in York Minster,—the ceiling is borrowed from that of King's college, Cambridge, and the walls are painted after the Cathedral of Milan.

The town of Alnwick is pretty well built, and contains about 5000 inhabitants. It sends two members to Parliament. The freemen are made or installed in their rights by a most singular process. It is called *leaping the well*. They assemble early on St. Mark's day, at the market place, on horseback, every man with his sword by his side, dressed in white, and attended by the four chamberlains of the borough, mounted and armed in the same manner. They proceed thence with music to a large dirty pool, called *Freeman's Well*: here they dismount, draw up in a body, and then rush through *the mud to the other side*, and present themselves in the most dirty condition to the spectators; but putting on clean clothes, they remount their horses, and ride full gallop round the confines of the town: and returning sword in hand, are met by *women* decorated with ribbands, bells, &c. singing and dancing! The houses of these new made *freemen* are on this day distinguished by a holly bush, as a signal for their friends to assemble and make merry. But what do you think is the origin of this extraordinary custom. It is quite as remarkable as the custom itself. King John having been mired in this puddle, as a punishment to the electors for not keeping the roads in better order, made this ceremony

a part of the charter of the town ! Some of the ancient customs of England are venerable and romantic ; but this, you will conclude, partakes rather too much of the ludicrous and degrading.

On crossing the river Aln, a monument of stone drew my attention. It was placed here by the late Dutchess of Northumberland, in commemoration of King Malcolm, who was slain on this spot ; the Dutchess being lineally descended from that prince.

We dined at Berwick-on-Tweed, which is another royal borough. It is a town and county of itself, though generally considered as part of Northumberland. The bridge over the Tweed was built by Queen Elizabeth. There appeared nothing particularly interesting in this border town.

At a short distance from Berwick, we crossed the boundary line of England, and entered Scotland. The general appearance of the country soon began to wear an aspect of more assiduous and skilful cultivation. East Lothian, through which our road lay, is, it is true, one of the finest districts in North Britain ; and the farming appeared to me to be of a character superior to that of any country I have ever seen. The winter grain was growing luxuriantly, in rows perfectly straight and even, effected by the drill, an instrument now in general use, in sowing the grain. It not only produces a considerable saving in quantity, but disposes the seed so regularly, and covers it with so much exactness, as to promote a more free and fertile growth. An intelligent gentleman, who had been my coach companion much of the day, and who, I learned, was a respectable farmer in East Lothian, informed me, that whole plantations, lying on the road

we were travelling, would let for an annual rent of eight pounds sterling per acre. It is common for a professed farmer, to take on such a rent, two or three plantations, of 200, or even 400 acres each, and keep them all under his own management. The principal crops here are wheat, oats, and beans. The growth of turnips is becoming more and more important. The Swedish turnip, or ruta бага, and the common large English sort, are chiefly cultivated. Sheep live upon them all winter, in the open fields; and in feeding cattle, they are found to be an excellent substitute for hay and grain.

Our road lay very much along the coast, affording fine views of the sea. The first Scotch town we passed through, was Dunbar, dependent principally on the fisheries. It was amusing to notice, in the conversation of the passengers, who crowded into the coach, on its approach to the capital, the prevalence of the broad Scotch dialect. In an hour's ride, I heard more of it, than in all my life before.

The coach entered Edinburgh, about eleven in the evening, by a street which passed *under* one of the bridges of another street, thus presenting, at the commencement, one of the peculiarities of this far-famed city.

LETTER XXXII.

Edinburgh, 3d month, (March) 13, 1819.

MY DEAR ***** AND *****,

THROUGH the kindness of *. *****, of Newcastle, my arrival here had been anticipated, and, on the stopping of the coach, I was inquired for, and conducted to the house of a friend, where, late as it was, the supper table was spread, and a kind and cordial home offered me, by persons whom I had never before seen. For this, (to me, affecting) goodness, I was indebted both to Scotch and English hospitality. My host, *. *****, is a Scotchman; his wife is from London, and with some of her family, I had made an acquaintance in that city.

5th. Intending to remain no longer in Edinburgh, than it may be necessary, in order to become pretty well acquainted with the town, the college, and the general character of the place, I began my researches this morning, after breakfasting with my open hearted friends, whose residence, I find, is on the borders of the city, retired from its bustle, and open to the hills and meadows.

At ten, I went to the college, and was admitted into Dr. Hope's room, and heard him lecture to his large class, on chemistry. On presenting to him, after the lecture, a letter from my valued friend, professor Siliman, he received me politely, and offered his services in a very obliging manner. His room, as well as other parts of the university buildings, do not, in appearance, correspond with the high reputation of this

school. The original plan of the college edifice, has never been completed, for want of funds. They have lately, however, received a grant of £10,000 per annum, from parliament, and are making extensive improvements.

I spent several hours in walking through the town, with a friend who kindly offered to accompany me. We went to various places, and among others to the top of Calton hill, one of the finest promenades in the city, and, perhaps, not surpassed in any city of Europe. This hill overlooks almost the whole town, and is so situated as to command the most favourable view of its different parts. Edinburgh is really a magnificent place. The great diversity of surface on which it stands, has been so managed as to increase its picturesque beauty and at the same time, its convenience. In no place that I have seen, are there greater evidences of a regard to elegance of arrangement, without any sacrifice of the facilities of intercourse and business, than in the modern parts of this town. To form some idea of the plan of it, imagine three ridges of high land, from half a mile to a mile in width, extending from east to west, and separated from each other, by deep but dry vallies. On the southernmost of these ridges, stands the old town; resembling much more nearly, in the form of its buildings, a French than an English city. The streets are narrow and irregular, and the houses very high. Some of those on the north side, present next the valley, a face of twelve or thirteen stories. At the western extremity of this ridge, is a high pointed hill, on which is the castle, a strong tower, and garrisoned with soldiers. On the south

side of the old town, is a narrow but deep dry valley, filled with houses on each side of a street called Cowgate, which runs through the middle of it. Indeed the buildings of the old town cover a considerable part of another and a broader ridge on the south, while modern improvements have added several handsome squares and buildings, including the university, to this part of the city. Nicholson-street, which connects these opposite ridges, crosses the Cowgate on a high single-arched bridge, presenting the curious spectacle, of one busy street passing immediately *under* another.

The northern or middle ridge, is covered by the new town. It is laid out with great regularity and entirely built up, with almost perfect uniformity and good taste. Prince's-street on the south, and Queen's-street on the north side, have scarcely their equals any where in the symmetry of their buildings, their length, their width, and the beauty and variety of the prospect enjoyed from every part of their extensive side walks. Prince's-street faces the valley next the old town, and from its broad flagged pavement, (for it is built only on one side,) a fine view is every where had of the green valley, and the romantic front of the old town, with the castle towering over it, the bridge on the east end of the valley, which connects the two towns, and several churches with their spires at the other end. Queen's-street, similarly built on the other side, forms also a beautiful terrace, which overlooks the north valley with its meadows and gardens, the Frith of Forth, the county of Fife beyond, and commands a view of a still more recent addition to the city, called in common

parlance, the new new-town. George's-street extends longitudinally, through the middle of the new town, from St. Andrew's square on the east, to Charlotte square on the west. It is of an extraordinary width, with wide, well-paved footwalks. The houses in the new town are built of hewn stone, and are three stories high. Charlotte square, with St. George's church in the middle of its western front, its noble houses on each side, and its central area, makes a superb appearance. The new town is occupied chiefly by the wealthier classes of citizens. The largest hotels for public entertainment, are to be found in Prince's-street. The three principal streets of the new town, are about three-fourths of a mile in length. Prince's and Queen's are each 100 feet wide, and George's 115. The six cross streets, are of inferior width. In the *new* new-town, there are already a number of well built streets and elegant houses. Great King-street in the centre of this new Edinburgh, has, like George's-street, a large open space or square, at each extremity.

These extraordinary and rapid improvements, are not confined to the north side of Edinburgh. On the south side of the old town, George's, Nicholson's, and St. Patrick's square, are comparatively modern, and demonstrate a similar spirit. Every stranger must be forcibly imprest, with the evidence of taste and wealth, which are thus displayed; and if Edinburgh is to be taken as an example of Scotland generally, one must certainly conclude, that the tide of national prosperity is strong and full.

8th. Though invited, in the kindest manner by my friends, to continue with them during my stay, I thought

it advisable to obtain lodgings nearer the university, and where I should be at liberty to receive calls and dispose of my time without the danger of intrusion on private domestic order. From the influx of strangers, and especially of students, to this literary mart of the north, a great number of houses are devoted to their accommodation. The general practice is to take rooms or lodgings at a fixed price, and engage the family to procure provisions and provide meals just as they may be wanted, and charge only the actual cost of what is thus obtained. For this purpose a blank book is kept by the lodger, in which the mistress or master of the house enters an exact statement of their expenditures on his account. Nothing can be more reasonable, agreeable, or independent than this mode of living; and it is so much the interest of housekeepers, to keep a fair account, and to treat their lodgers with civility and attention, one is in little danger of neglect or imposition. I have obtained a very genteelly furnished parlour and a bed room, in an open part of the old town, at seventeen shillings per week, and every necessary care is engaged to provide meals agreeably to my order.

I have attended a number of the lectures both in and out of the university, and have had introductions to several of the professors, as well as to some other persons of note, but shall forbear to make any comments, until further acquaintance shall enable me to form opinions.

On calling to deliver a letter to F***** J*****, Esq. I found him in his office, surrounded by numerous clients, listening to their representations. His house is in George's street, the central part of the

new town. On perusing my letter, he left his seat, and with a ready politeness made the way easy for further acquaintance. He is so much of a public man, and has been so much talked of, it seems scarcely necessary for me to say that his stature is beneath the middle size, and his features small, for a Scotchman; but a high well arched forehead, and an eye of peculiar fulness and lustre, sufficiently compensate for the absence of those broad and imposing traits of countenance, so common in the people of his nation.

9th. After hearing a lecture or two in the university, I went this morning, with a friend, to the old parliament house, where the courts are now sitting. This building stands in the parliament close, a recess on the south side of High-street in the old town. The building is nearly two hundred years old. We entered a long room which has a most singular and antiquated ceiling or roof, formed of large pieces of oak, very curiously carved. The crowd of people in this large room, and the hum of human voices, which resounded from side to side, would seem to render it a most unfit place for the calm investigations of justice, and the solemn administration of law. The room, from its bustle and movement, resembled a merchants' exchange, and yet two or three courts were sitting in it, and engaged in their ordinary business; advocates pleading, criers calling names, &c. They each occupied one end or quarter of the hall, and by keeping compactly together, were able to get on with the business, notwithstanding the continued murmur of sounds. In two or more adjoining rooms other courts were sitting. In my short interview yesterday, with J*****, he kindly desired me when I

came into the court, to acquaint him with my being there. He came and conducted us through the several court rooms, libraries, &c. of the parliament house, and gave me every requisite information. This polite attention was evidently bestowed at the expense of his, or his clients convenience, for he was soon followed by a young man with a bundle of papers, urging his attention to the subjects they referred to. But he persevered with us till we had gone the round. In one of the court rooms, my attention was arrested by the appearance of a person at the table, whose physiognomy resembled that of a certain print, not uncommon in the shops of New-York. "Would you," said, my conductor, "like to be introduced to Scott?" I replied earnestly in the affirmative, and following him, we elbowed our way nearly to the lawyer's table, and waited till J***** caught his eye. On introducing me to him, he very courteously expressed his pleasure, and immediately informed me that some of his ancestors were members of the society of Friends, and that he held the society in great respect.

This distinguished writer is still clerk of the court of sessions, for which he receives a salary, as I was informed, of £1300 per annum. Our conversation continued as long as the business of the court would well admit. But short as it was, it afforded a characteristic display of his anecdotal powers. In reference to the respectability of his quaker ancestors, he related a story of a great aunt, who had belonged to that sect. She had been inhumanly persecuted by a certain family, on account of her religion; and on a particular occasion, prompted by virtuous indignation, she knelt before the door of her perse-

cutors, and prayed, that a male child might never be born from either branch of the family, that thereby such a persecuting race should not be continued upon the earth. Her prayer was answered, for no son was ever afterwards born in the family.

Though short in his stature, and rather clumsy in his person, there is in the appearance of Walter Scott, enough to excite the most favourable prepossessions in relation to the powers of his mind. I do not know what Dr. Spurzheim has thought or pronounced, with respect to his cranium, but I do not recollect to have ever noticed a finer model, particularly in the whole of the space above his eyes. His manners appeared to be bland and engaging, and marked with that ease and simplicity, which result from the highest cultivation. He was pleased to express his regret, that his intention of leaving town almost immediately, would prevent the opportunity of further acquaintance, unless I would visit him at his country residence, on the banks of the Tweed, which I find is at a considerable distance from Edinburgh. As soon as the courts are over, he flies to the country, he informed me, like a bird loosened from its cage. Being lame in one leg, he has a limp in his gait, but neither this nor the broad muscularity of his limbs, can prevent the acknowledgment of those irresistible attractions, which arise from his towering pile of forehead, and still more, the eloquent animation of his eye, when he selects from the vast stores of his poetic memory, some lively anecdote for the amusement of his company.

Both S. and J. spoke of the Americans who were now, or had recently been, in Edinburgh, in flattering

terms ; and particularly of *. *. ***** of Virginia, and *. ***** of Boston. The latter has been spending some years on the continent, and has richly availed himself of the advantages of a residence at one of the German universities, and a visit at most of the courts and capitals of the south of Europe.

Among the various rooms, to which J***** conducted me, was the Advocates' Library, containing about 50,000 volumes ! The apartments of this library are six in number, and all completely subterranean, or beneath the level of the ground ; but a new building is now nearly completed for the accommodation of this, and the Solicitors' Library. This new building is in a style of more luxurious architecture, than any thing which the old city of Edinburgh has hitherto witnessed. The Advocates' Library contains many rare and valuable works, among which are several beautiful manuscripts of the Bible, with a copy of the Gospels in the Malay tongue, written on the leaves of a tree, and a fine copy of Martial's epigrams, written on vellum, and upwards of 900 years old. The judges presiding in the several courts, were remarkably fine looking men, particularly in all those traits which seem in natural alliance with the dignity of their stations. Indeed it struck me, that if the essence of human wisdom could be personified, you might here behold it. In some of the court rooms, were finely executed statues of former judges. One of these was in the attitude of expounding the law, with much earnestness. Another is recently from the chisel of Chantrey, and does credit to his superior skill. The court of sessions, of which W. Scott is one of the clerks, is the most exalted tribunal in

Scotland. From the decisions of this court there is no appeal, except to the House of Peers. The lord president of this court, receives a salary of £4,300. The judges, while on the bench, wear a red gown, and, as in England, they, as well as the lawyers, have their heads covered with powdered wigs.

Agreeable as it was to have so intelligent a conductor, through this great theatre of Scotch justice, I should have much preferred to listen to him at the bar. But there did not appear to be any causes of a very interesting nature, at that time before the courts. The Parliament-Square is ornamented with an equestrian statue of Charles II. of beautiful workmanship, and it is singular that there is no account registered of the name of the artist, nor of the authority by which it was erected.

At half past five, I had the pleasure of meeting at J*****'s table, two gentlemen of eminence in their respective professions, Sir H***** M***** W*****, one of the most distinguished preachers in Edinburgh, and — M*****, a lawyer. The former is past the middle age,—the latter has not yet attained it. These two persons were appointed by the General Assembly of Scotland, to draw the national report relative to the condition of the poor, and which able document has been printed by order of parliament. I have not seen this report; but in the course of conversation, they united in condemning the poor-laws of England, as injurious to the interests of the country, and tending to increase the evils they are meant to remedy.

Sir H. M. W. is at the head of the largest parish in Edinburgh, or perhaps in Scotland. It comprehends a population of about 40,000 persons, and as a

striking evidence of the pride of honest independence, in which the lower classes are educated in this country, he stated that the sum of £250 per annum, was distributed to the poor of his parish. in out door pensions. This sum, it was conceived, might be diminished, by the erection of a workhouse. A house was accordingly provided, and the out pay was stopped; but only nine persons chose to accept the new terms, and come into the house. It is an almost universal custom, in Scotland, to assist the poor, not by taxes, but by voluntary contributions, collected at the churches; and the distribution of these charities, is very much under the regulation of the ministers, and other religious officers of the parish. A forced maintenance of the poor, is greatly deprecated in Scotland, as tending to depress the virtuous energies of the people, and of course to multiply all the evils of pauperism. Hospitals for the relief of the sick and disabled, are pretty numerous, but they are supported principally by private donations.

On such an occasion, as this little dinner party, when one first meets company in a strange place, it is natural, perhaps, to feel the workings of a little timorous hesitation, and to be cautious in casting one's line too far into the current of conversation, not knowing its depth, or its strength, or the actual dangers of the sport. In a small and select company too, one's timidity is greater than in a more promiscuous assemblage. The clerical knight had arrived before me, and on my introduction to him, by J*****, he rose with a slow and solemn motion from his seat; raised his right hand nearly to his face, and made a low and deliberate bow. It almost brought to my imagination.

the formalities of a magical incantation, and nearly chilled the blood in my veins. M***** was more easy, but I could scarcely refrain from the thought, that they both viewed me as a sort of non-descript, and did not at first know, in what class or order of the social world to place me. A slight difference of dress or manners, may thus tend to arrest the natural flow of feeling and sentiment : but happily, the faculty of speech, may soon dispel those errors of the imagination, and open the heart to more liberal and enlightened emotions.

The conversation was instructive and agreeable, but not particularly brilliant. J***** excels, remarkably in fulness and readiness, of thought and expression. His mind teems upon every subject, that fairly engages his attention; and it seems to require as little exertion in him to keep up a constant stream of sensible talk, as it does in a ploughman to whistle from one end of his furrow to the other. His remarks are more sprightly and entertaining, than profound and instructive, but they are, on this account, better suited to ordinary occasions. His wife, you know, is a New-Yorker. They have one child, a fine little girl, about six years old. They have a residence in the country, three miles from the city, to which they are now about retiring for the summer. The distinguished rank which he holds at the bar, and the prodigious sale which the *Edinburgh Review* now commands, must afford him an ample income. It is indeed surprising, that one man can execute so much, and do it so well. There are few instances, perhaps, in literary biography, which more forcibly demonstrate the importance of

an early and assiduous cultivation of the faculties, and the power of habit and exercise, over the imagination and judgment, than in the case of Francis Jeffrey and Walter Scott.

10th. The university buildings occupy a quadrangle of 550 by 350 feet, with a large court in the centre. The institution having received the parliamentary grant, before mentioned, it is now in an active state of improvement, under the management of —— Playfair, an ingenious architect, and nephew of the professor. New buildings have been erected, on the west side of the court, for a museum of natural history, chemical lecture room, laboratories, &c. The museum is nearly completed, and in point of elegance, in its interior, it will rival all the apartments I have seen, for purposes of this nature.

Dr. Hope's new lecture room, will afford superior advantages to his class, already more numerous than any other in the university, and indeed larger than any class I saw on the continent. His style of lecturing, is remarkably free from any strained attempt at wit or ornament; but his enunciation is full, distinct, and intelligible; he says nothing more than what it is important that he should say; but he says enough to render his subject perspicuous to his auditors. His superiority principally consists in the dexterity of his manipulations, and the uniform elegance and success of his experiments. To this part of his subject, he pays the greatest attention, sparing neither time nor expense in his preparations. Indeed, with all the well devised apparatus, and the example of his eminent predecessor, Dr. Black, and the facility with which any additional instrument can be procured in this

city, it might be expected, that the professor of chemistry, in this university, would feel an ambition to excel in the excellence of his course of instruction. It is Dr. Hope's merit, that he does feel this ambition, and hence his efforts are attended with complete success. Whatever may be alleged with respect to his want of genius, he has enough to give his subject a full and masterly elucidation.—enough to satisfy all the reasonable desires of his class: and more than this, however it might extend his reputation as a philosopher, would, in all probability, tend to diminish his qualifications as a teacher. Wherever Dr H. has *chosen* to enter the field of research and investigation, he has shown himself not deficient in the power of discrimination, or the sagacity which leads to useful discovery.

I spent the evening with Dr. John Murray, and have several times heard him in his lecture room. This eminent chemist, has been for several years in such bad health, as seldom to venture out of doors. He passes, by a covered way, from his chamber to his lecture room, and spends no more time in his laboratory, than is absolutely unavoidable; depending chiefly on his assistants, for the requisite preparations. Dr. M.'s lectures and publications, have contributed very considerably to the scientific eminence of this city. Notwithstanding the popularity of the collegiate course of chemistry, he has always been attended by a respectable class; and few men, who have ever filled a chemical chair, have exceeded him in the perspicuity of his views, and the acuteness with which he examines the prevailing theories of the science.

11th. At nine this morning I heard Dr. Gregory, on the practice of physic. The ability with which this chair has been filled by his father and himself, is acknowledged by the medical world, in Europe and America. Dr. G. is himself advanced in years. Nothing can exceed the ease and familiarity of his manner. He sits with his hat on, and talks to his numerous class, like a father to his sons, telling them his experience, and that of his father before him, and they listening to him with the fondness of children. His instruction is of so practical a cast, and it has withal such a moral bearing, it cannot but be very valuable to the tyros in medicine, who, in such large numbers, listen to his discourses. If he has any fault, it is merely that which arises from the garrulity of age.*

With an American acquaintance, I went to the high school of Edinburgh, and was introduced to the rector, J. Pillans. This grammar school is of ancient standing, and like the university, it is under the direction of the magistrates of the city. It dates an existence of nearly 300 years, but the present building was erected in 1777. It is 120 feet long. The number of scholars is at present between 8 and 900. Four teachers are employed, in addition to the rector. This gentleman, by the effort of a particular genius, and indefatigable activity, has completely succeeded in introducing into this large school, the system of monitorial instruction, and applying it to classical learning. He has under his exclusive charge, twenty-three classes, each containing nine boys. Every class has its monitor, who hears the rest recite.

* Dr. Gregory died on the 2d of April, 1821.

They occupy three rooms, and are all engaged at the same time. The rector superintends the whole, and decides all questions of dispute, when appeals are made to him against the decision of the monitors. In each room is a *custos morum*, who watches the behaviour of the scholars and notes every instance of remissness. Almost the only punishment resorted to, is the imposing of additional tasks on offenders, and obliging them to attend the school, during the hours and half days of ordinary vacation. The twenty-three classes all recite the same lesson at the same time. The noise they make is unavoidably great, but it is the sound of useful activity. We were highly gratified with the evidences of intelligence and attainment which the boys displayed when collected into one room, and examined before us by the rector. The superiority of their instruction appeared not only in the facility of their translations, but in the readiness with which they recited parallel passages, and referred to the illustrations of different classical authors, and in their acquaintance with the geography, chronology, &c. of the historical passages, which were given them as extemporaneous exercises. Great merit is obviously due to the rector, for bringing this method of teaching so perfectly to bear upon the higher parts of education, and showing its adaptation to subjects which have generally been thought beyond its reach. The high school contains a good library for the benefit of the teachers and boys of the upper class. The whole cost of tuition in this excellent school, is but three pounds per annum, including the use of the library. There are few boys in the school above sixteen years of age, a period which leaves

them sufficient time for apprenticeship to almost any kind of business. With such advantages of intellectual and moral instruction, is it surprising that Scotland should have taken such an elevated stand among the nations, for the intelligence, industry and sobriety of her people ?*

12th. I have been much gratified to-day, in two of the lecture rooms, viz. : those of Dr. Brown, professor of moral philosophy, and Dr. Ritchie, professor of logic. The former is the successor of Dugald Stewart ; and difficult as the task must have been to

* The very flourishing condition of the High School of Edinburgh, in which about 900 boys are taught by four masters and a rector, afforded, to my mind, a very satisfactory demonstration, not only of the practicability, but the excellence of the monitorial system, when applied to any or all of the exercises of a superior grammar school. The public, in all the large cities of England, Scotland, and the United States, have long since been convinced, that this system is of inestimable importance in the education of the lower classes ; and because it has been adopted chiefly in the *Free Schools*, many persons seem to have drawn the illogical conclusion, that it is not adapted to higher seminaries, or to the instruction of boys in the more elevated parts of learning. The example of the High School has clearly shown the error of this opinion. By the partial employment of this easy and pleasant mode of instruction, the rector of the High School, (since chosen professor of humanity in the university,) was able, as he informed me, to manage his 207 boys with more facility, than he could have taught 100 upon the old plan, and with greater efficiency. It is not to be supposed, that the whole instruction is to be communicated through the monitors. Such parts only of the recitations are confided to them, as it is ascertained, that they are fully competent to attend to ; much of the time, (probably one half,) is spent by the rector in explanations and examinations before the whole school. By this judicious course of proceeding, a high degree of emulation is excited, habits of great industry and activity are maintained, and an education of the best kind is afforded at about one third of the cost of the ordinary grammar schools of our cities. So well convinced are the citizens of Edinburgh of the advantages of this plan of instruction, they have under consideration the establishment of a High School in the new town, in which provision is to be made for the more complete introduction of the monitorial system.

supply such a vacancy, Dr. B. acquits himself with an ability which leaves but little to desire in this interesting sphere of instruction. He reads his lecture; but it is so eloquently written, and so agreeably read, that the attention of the class is well supported to the end.

Dr. Ritchie also reads, but with such animation and energy, as to spread a charm over a subject, from which I had anticipated but a very moderate share of entertainment. He treated in this lecture of sophisms or fallacies in reasoning, and in the course of his remarks, stated, that the “Divinity of the Christian religion, is a fact which is better established than almost any other of equal antiquity, and much better than many others. on which mankind in general, and even skeptics themselves, rest some of the most important conclusions of practical life.” Dr. Brown is equally explicit in his support of Christian principles. Such evidences of a sound and orthodox faith, in two of the most distinguished metaphysical teachers, ought, as I conceive, to go far toward redeeming the university from the imputation of a leaning toward skepticism, under which it labours in the southern parts of the kingdom.

LETTER XXXIII.

Edinburgh, 3d month, (March) 20, 1819.

MY DEAR **** AND *****,

AN introduction to Dr. Brown, from my friend S. of Yale, was sufficient to engage the kind attention of this amiable man. I received to-day a note of invitation from him, to meet a few of his friends at his own house, at the singular hour of nine o'clock, P. M. I anticipated a select literary few, but was surprised to find a drawing room filled with fashionable people of both sexes, dressed in the first style of Edinburgh taste and gaiety. *Quoi faire*, you will ask, in such a case, with my plain habits and habiliments. Why, no other than make the best of it, and behave as easily as possible. I confess, I had no just notion before, of an evening party in the true *ton*. The room became crowded to excess, so that to sit was impossible, except for a very few, whose strength could no longer support them on their feet, and these few would of course be ladies. Notwithstanding the crowd, it might be called a select party, for the greater portion were persons of some literary reputation. Among the females were Mrs. Grant of Laggan and her daughter. This lady feels much interest in America, from the circumstance of having spent several of her early years in that country; and she is popular with us, from having given so agreeable an account of her recollections, in her published letters. We had much interesting conversation. T***** of Boston, Professor A***** of Milan, and

V*****, the son of my amiable friend at Geneva, were of the party. The latter has spent some time at the university. Much ease and sociability prevailed. About eleven o'clock, two or three supper tables were spread with a cover of cold fowl, tongue, ice-cream, jellies, fruit, and wine. The company did not all incline to partake of the refreshments, but such as did, went to the table and helped themselves, standing, for there was not room for many to sit. Dr. B. politely interposed to assist me to the various good things on the table, and what was of more consequence to my sensibilities, to a chair. The company dispersed about twelve, without any formality. Instead of carriages at the door, (though there might have been some of these,) I observed a number of sedan chairs. These, as well as the hackney coaches, are public vehicles, and have regulated prices. They are principally used for the conveyance of females. I returned to my lodgings, as I should suppose most of the party did, excessively fatigued from so long standing; and more inclined to blame than to praise this fashionable mode of showing hospitality. Every rational purpose, as far as I can conceive, would be better answered by tea parties at an earlier hour, and by inviting very few more persons than there are seats in the room. The standers would then have a chance of being frequently replaced by the sitters, and each would be at liberty to choose his position. But I am told that these Edinburgh coteries are sometimes so full, that those who come last, can get no further than the head of the stairs, or, at most, to the door of the drawing-room. To *stand* for two or three hours, squeezed un-

comfortably on all sides, for the honour of being at a party, appears to me to be one of the most stupid things imaginable; but I am, perhaps, too little versed in the motives and stimulants of high life, to comprehend the nature of such a custom, or the reasons for its adoption.

13th. At half-past nine this morning, I went to breakfast with Mrs. Grant in Prince's street. She holds a most respectable rank in the Literary Society of this place, and is much visited by strangers. Her conversation turned on America, of which, though she left it at the early age of thirteen, she retains a forcible recollection. She speaks with a strong Scotch accent, as do many of the females with whom I have conversed. The brogue is quite a national trait, and in the middling and lower classes it is no recommendation to be without it. Mrs. G. told me that on her return from America, the plain English terms *large* and *small* were quite offensive to her companions, for they considered it a mark of pride in her to use them, and she was obliged, in her own defence, to substitute the vernacular words *muckle* and *wee*. From the superiority of her literary taste and acquirements, and the excellence of her character, she holds the respectable station of protectress to several young females of family and fortune, who reside with her much as her own children, partake of her counsel, and receive their instruction from masters under her direction. The openness and simplicity of her manners, are no less attractive than the graces of her understanding. She has none of the flimsy wisdom about her, which is said to distinguish the *Blue Stockings* of this city, and which qualifies them to converse with

any body, on any subject, but especially with politicians and philosophers. She has a strong and enlightened mind, cultivated by study and observation, and is blessed with an ample share of that first of natural endowments, *common sense*.

At the breakfast table, several of her *protégées* were present, besides her own daughters. When the repast was finished, she read to us a chapter in the Bible. This I take to be her customary practice, and when done with proper solemnity, it has ever appeared to me to be an emphatical mode of disposing the mind to a grateful sense of its daily favours, and of inculcating those feelings, which are the best preparation for the active concerns of the day.

I heard a lecture this morning from Dr. Hamilton, professor of obstetrics in the university. It was fluent, clear, and impressive. His reputation as a teacher is inferior to few. His class, however, is not half so large as that of Dr. Hope.* Indeed it is evident, that chemistry and natural philosophy are the most popular branches of education, in this, as well as in the Parisian schools. Dr. H. used no notes. He speaks with a considerable brogue; but a certain measure of this is, to my ear, by no means disagreeable.

At the table of my friend C*****, I met to-day a number of foreigners, who have been spending the winter in Edinburgh, chiefly in attendance upon the lectures. Among them is a person from the Crimea, who appears to be a man of some distinction. His title, as I find it on his card, is "Sultan Alexander Katté-Ghery, Krim-Ghery, and of Caucasus." He is of middle age, has a mild and agreeable physiognomy,

* His course is only sub-graduate.

and tolerably fair complexion; a gentle and sedate demeanor; speaks English pretty well, and converses freely. He appears to be religiously disposed, having incurred, as I was informed, the displeasure of his family, by refusing to join in their superstitious practices, and by his determination to adopt a purer and better faith. He has been encouraged, it is said, by the Emperor, to travel through England and Scotland, in order to extend his qualifications, for introducing reformation and improvement into his own country. This, I should think at least probable; for it is a fact, that a considerable number of young Russians of talent, have been stationed in different schools of England and France, and others supported in their journey through those countries, that they may, on their return, diffuse the knowledge thus acquired. The Sultan informed us, that the priests of the Greek church, in the south of Russia, are ignorant, superstitious, and selfish; and that in the Crimea, the Mahometans are more religious, and more moral, than the Christians. Education is extremely low. The dialects of the Crimea, are very various, and some of them have no written language.

14th. A breakfast, this morning, with Dr. B***** made me acquainted with an amiable and interesting family. There is, probably, no man in this intellectual city, more devoted to literary and scientific pursuits, than Dr. B. Besides the editorship of the Edinburgh Encyclopedia, his papers read before the R. S. S. of London and Edinburgh, are numerous, and on subjects of science which require a great deal of experimental investigation. Much of the Encyclopedia is written by himself. Besides these very active duties.

he is about to commence, in conjunction with professor Jameson, the publication of a quarterly journal of science.* In the United States, we know but little comparatively, of the profession of letters; and we know still less of the actual toil, which is requisite to sustain the reputation of good authorship. My recollection would scarcely enable me to name a single individual, who is dependent solely upon his pen for a maintenance, without any connection with place or appointment; and until letters become more of a profession among us, it may be reasonable to doubt, whether *learning* will flourish, in any degree, commensurate with the domestic arts.

Dr. B. has a family of four beautiful little boys, partaking, in a remarkable degree, of the personal attractions of their agreeable and accomplished mother.

I attended this morning the kirk of Sir H**** M***** W*****, and heard two discourses from him. The first was a lecture on the third chapter of 1 Kings, between which and the sermon, were other usual exercises. There is an honesty in his manner, and an earnestness, so totally devoid of all attempt at ornament, or of pulpit effect, except that of solemnizing his audience, and enforcing upon them, the heartfelt importance of religious duties—and there is, at the same time, in his voice and looks, and intonation, such an exemption from all affected seriousness, that no person can doubt that he means to be understood and felt in all that he says, and that he regards religion as a daily practical work, which one man cannot do for another. His style is plain, but full of mascu-

* This journal now ranks among the most distinguished vehicles of science in Europe.

line energy. Though advanced in years, his voice is strong and often rises to a high pitch of fervour and authority; but in its boldest tones, it is finely tempered with that affectionate solicitude, which an aged minister may well be supposed to feel for an audience to which he has long been attached. This is the first Scotch sermon I have heard; and I must confess it gave me a favourable impression, of the fidelity and ability with which the minister of a national kirk, performs his service. The salaries of the clergy in Scotland, vary from £150 to £500 per annum. Few, if any, exceed the latter sum.

With an American acquaintance, I likewise went to hear a sermon from the celebrated author of the work on taste. His published sermons are certainly eloquent and popular; but on this occasion, I was disappointed. The orator fell far short of what I had anticipated. This might have been owing to the bodily infirmity under which he laboured. His voice and action were feeble; nor did there appear to be much in the composition, that went far to impress the hearers. The sermon lasted about twenty minutes. The Episcopal chapel in which he officiates is a new and superb structure in the new town. The richness of the edifice, its gilded cross, and rays of glory penetrating the clouds which surrounded it, the shortness of the sermon and the thinness of the audience,—all furnished a remarkable contrast with the kirk of Sir H**** M*****.

15th. After breakfasting with an elderly lady in Prince's street, whom I had met at Dr. Brown's evening party,—the sister of W. M*****, of Philadelphia, and attending several lectures, I went to visit

a school for the education of girls, called the *Merchant Maiden School*. It occupies a large and appropriate building, recently erected in a pleasant situation on the southern border of the old town. The house cost £9000, and the furniture nearly £6000. The foundation of this institution was laid by a benevolent female, and completed by private donations and contributions. It feeds, clothes, and educates about 80 girls. Those who contribute to a certain amount, have the privilege of introducing a pupil. They are instructed in all the substantial parts of a literary and domestic education, and the more fashionable accomplishments are taught to those whose friends are willing to encounter the expense themselves. The pupils are of respectable, but reduced families. Neatness and even elegance are studied in the furniture and arrangement of every department of the house. Sixteen of the oldest girls sleep in field bedsteads, with curtains. The bedsteads are all of iron, light and tasteful. Even the strips, which support the mattresses, are of sheet iron, and contribute, by their elasticity, to the comfort of the bed. The wardrobe of the school is a model of neatness. The pupils, on leaving this seminary, for actual service, receive a sum of money not exceeding a few pounds, but proportionate to their merits. The hope of this reward serves to stimulate them to industry and good conduct. Such an institution as this, is a high eulogium on the benevolence of those who planned and supported it; and, as far as it goes, it must contribute, in the most consoling manner, to relieve the feelings of a parent, who having once been in affluence or competence, and experienced the failure of all his

worldly hopes, is assured, on leaving the world, that his child will be educated in a school, which he knows will qualify her to fill some station of comfort and respectability.

At the house of T. A****, of Charlotte Square, a gentleman well known to mineralogists as the author of a valuable book on the synonymes of minerals, and of some other essays on kindred subjects, I met this afternoon, a dinner party consisting chiefly of members of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Among them were several professors of the university, Dr. B*****, Dr. C***** of the university of Glasgow, and Capt. B**** H****, son of Sir James Hall, whose instructive experiments on the fusion of refractory substances under strong pressure, are cited in almost every treatise on chemistry. Captain H**** is a very intelligent and skilful officer. He commanded one of the government vessels, which conveyed Lord Amherst, and his retinue to the court of China, and took an active part in that singular mission, and in the discoveries made in the Chinese seas. Among the foreigners present, were Aldini of Milan, the Sultan Katti-Ghery, and L——n, of New-York. The drawing room, in which we met, was ornamented with a suite of large and uncommonly brilliant specimens, exhibiting some of the most beautiful varieties of the mineral kingdom, arranged in an elegant mahogany case. The scientific collection of our host was in another room. At eight, the company went in a body to the Royal Society. The number of members present, was about fifteen. Lord Grey presided; and a paper was read by Dr. Brewster on the physical characters of Tabasheer, a siliceous

matter, which is deposited in bamboo. The society occupies two small, but neat rooms. Among the members, was one whose appearance struck me as remarkable. The deep lines of his unusually thin visage, and the keen and vivid glances of his eye, seemed to indicate a more than ordinary sensibility to external as well as internal impressions, notwithstanding the furrows which age had produced upon his forehead. It was M'K****e, the author of the "Man of feeling." A considerable number of strangers attended the meeting, among whom, I was glad to observe four or five of my own fellow citizens.

17th. A breakfast this morning with T. A****, gave me an opportunity of looking more leisurely over his cabinet. It is preserved in tasteful and beautiful order, and contains a superb variety, especially of the minerals of Greenland, and the Ferroe islands. His wife, whom he buried two years ago at Nice, was a sister of Elizabeth Smith, whose literary attainments and moral excellence, have claimed the admiration of all who have perused the interesting narrative of her life. A****, is a banker. His papers on geological subjects are creditable evidences of that zeal for the attainment and diffusion of useful knowledge, which is found in so many instances in this country, to pervade not only the work shop, but the counting room; to alleviate the toils of business, and to mingle with the common concerns of life.

Of the lectures which I attended to day, was one of Dr. B*****y on anatomy. Though not within the limits, nor under the authority of the university, Dr. B. is attended by the greater number of the medical

students. He delivers an excellent course and is deservedly esteemed by his class. Among the numerous preparations of his museum, are a complete skeleton of an elephant, and the skeleton of a horse, with that of a man seated on his back. A more appropriate image of "death on the pale horse," was perhaps never thought of.

The Professor of Anatomy in the University, Dr. M****, has the reputation of enjoying his office by virtue of the talents of his father and grandfather, and of caring too little for any thing except the emoluments of his chair. I heard him to-day, after attending Dr. B****. His door-keeper, unlike those of the other professors, though he knew I was a stranger, refused to admit me until his master appeared, who, after some hesitation, gave me leave to enter. Although his department of the medical school is that which, in other places, generally secures the largest attendance, his class is but about one-fifth of the number of Dr. Hope's. On entering the theatre, he ascended to a desk, took out a paper, and read the whole of a lecture on Aneurism, in a slow and indolent manner, put the paper again in his pocket, and went out, without making any comments. Students who mean to graduate, are obliged, of course, to take Dr. M.'s ticket; and it is certainly much to be regretted that a branch of medical study which lies so much at the foundation of the art, should not be taught in a manner the most acceptable to the great body of students, who annually resort to this school from every part of Europe and America. Dr. M. has given proofs of very respectable qualifications, in several publica-

tions on the subject of his department; hence the manner in which he fulfils his duties is the more remarkable.

17th. Professor J*****, with whom I breakfasted this morning, has done much, by his devoted attention to natural history, to elevate the character of the Edinburgh school. His collection of minerals and other objects is rich and extensive, and his arrangements are evidences of much taste. As a mineralogist, he is probably not excelled by many persons in Europe; but his style of lecturing is not good. His manner is tame and feeble, and, having spent much time at the school of Freyburg, under the great founder of scientific mineralogy, Professor Werner, he has acquired a German accent, which, to say the least, adds no grace to his delivery. His lectures embrace zoology as well as mineralogy. His treatise on the latter subject, has been the most popular work in the English language, in both hemispheres; but it will not be able, I think, long to compete with the more lucid and interesting works of Cleaveland and Phillips.

I have seen, to-day, the deaf and dumb school, and the General Infirmary. In the former are fifty pupils, male and female. The teacher of this school, R. K*****, has gained a well-merited reputation, for his ingenuity and success in training the minds and morals of this unfortunate class. He has published several little works in aid of his mode of teaching, which are said to possess much merit. Some of the children speak very intelligibly. They are taught arithmetic, writing, the accurate definition of words, and are made to answer questions relative to some parts of the Scriptures, and other topics adapted to

their condition. With some of the boys I conversed with great facility, by means of the slate and pencil. There are few schools for the deaf and dumb, better managed and supported than this. The opinion which some persons have attempted to maintain, that the instruction of persons deprived of their hearing, tends to render them more dissatisfied with their condition, and of course more unhappy, appears to be decidedly erroneous. That an injudicious course of education may, in a few solitary instances, produce such an effect, is possible; but the general result appears to be as much in favour of benevolent efforts towards this class, as it is on behalf of those who are in the full enjoyment of all their faculties.

The hospital of Edinburgh is by no means a superior establishment; though, at present, it is under much better regulation, I am told, than it was a few years ago. The wards are small, the floors are of large tile or brick, as in France, and the bedsteads are of iron, but without curtains. The patients are well classed, but too much crowded in some of the wards. As there is, probably, no hospital in Great Britain more frequented by foreign students, for the purpose of clinical instruction, it would seem very desirable that it should present a model of all that is useful or agreeable in arrangement, equipment, and general regulation.

18th. I took breakfast at Dr. B*****'s, and spent much of the morning very pleasantly with him in his cabinet. He has signalized himself by his indefatigable researches, and numerous discoveries, relative to the polarization of light. It was in the course of these researches, that he invented and gave a name

to the Kaleidoscope, an instrument so simple, and so extremely amusing, that it would probably have been impossible, by any patent regulation, to restrain the universal temptation to manufacture and sell it. Could this have been done, Dr. B. might, I believe, with justice to himself, have realized a fortune from this little instrument.

I called on Sir H. M. W. and spent half an hour with him, at his house in Queen-street. The clerical formality which struck me so forcibly, at our first interview, was changed into urbanity and kindness. It was he who originated the parliamentary scheme of building a great number of additional churches. This want is much felt, even in Edinburgh. The established kirks, within his own parish, will hold, he supposes, about 10,000, and the dissenting meeting houses, perhaps 10,000 more, leaving, a very large surplus of those who are able to attend worship, unprovided with the opportunity.

19th. Dr. B*****, with whom I took breakfast, was formerly a clergyman, but yielding to the impulse of genius, he gave up the pulpit for the anatomical theatre, and dissecting room. But he does not disdain to insert, as occasions offer, a little theology into his details on bones and muscles,—by no means a bad seasoning, though unhappily rather uncommon. He possesses a strong and cultivated mind. He was the friend of Dr. Spurzheim, the *craniologist*, whom he speaks well of, as a man and an anatomist; though he appears to be no believer in his system. He differs from him, in placing as an *effect*, what Spurzheim considers as a *cause*. Dr. B. supposes it is the soul that

modifies the organs, and not the organs the soul ; and that it would, therefore, be as wrong to seek for the peculiarities of the soul, in the brain, and other organs, as it would be to look for the genius of a mechanic among his tools. But admitting this theory to be the true one, it may be answered, that if a mechanic invents a tool, for each specific operation, and if the size or shape of any one tool, affords an indication of the extent of its use, or the propensity of the master, to handle it in preference to others, the tools themselves would enable any person, acquainted with their applications, to judge of the predominant genius of their owner. I would not have these remarks to be taken as a proof of my confidence in the theory of craniology. Every attempt to reduce all the little cavities, flatnesses, risings, and protuberances of the skull, to the principles of an exact science, and to deduce from them the precise measure of judgment, memory, and imagination, which any individual may possess, will, I suspect, be for ever baffled, until nature herself shall enlarge the organ of penetration, greatly beyond its present dimensions. The doctrine of Spurzheim, it would seem, was at one time much in vogue in Scotland, and it still has numerous partisans, both here and in England. The late Dr. Gordon, of this city, by directing against it the keen shafts of his wit and satire, in the *Edinburgh Review*, did much to check its popularity ; but the most complete refutation of its principles as a science, may be found in the article craniology, in the new supplement to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, now publishing here, and of which Dr. Roget, of London, is the author.

Dr. B. mentioned to me a curious instance of faith in the evidences of the skull. A medical acquaintance of his, on a tour to the highlands, had taken a guide to conduct him to the top of one of the mountains, and while exploring the summit, the guide happening to pull off his bonnet, to scratch his head, exposed to the alarmed vision of the Doctor, the organ of murder very strongly developed. With the greatest caution, the latter, watching his opportunity, slipped from the guide, and took to his heels down the mountain, leaving the astonished man utterly at a loss to account for such a strange proceeding.

I dined to-day with Dr. Hope, who resides with his brother in Queen-street. Several professors, foreigners, and other gentlemen, besides a number of ladies, constituted the dinner company. The entertainment was rich and tasteful. Greater attention appears to be paid to dress, especially among the females here, than in America, or perhaps in England. Their fashions too are different; but I shall not attempt to describe or criticise them, even at the risk of being censured for my indifference, by my female friends at home, who themselves dress with great simplicity and neatness.

Professor L***** is now supplying the place of professor Playfair, who is confined by illness. I have several times heard him, but cannot consider him as an accomplished lecturer. His person is large, and his manners coarse. He is immethodical and desultory in his arrangement; but as a plea for this, it may be urged, that he lectures without notes, and on subjects for which he has made no particular preparation. He is a man of unquestionable learning and genius and whatever may become of his theories, it must be

acknowledged that his publications have benefitted science. He was the greatest talker, eater, and sleeper at the table ; for when the females are withdrawn, it is no discredit in a polite company, to yield so far to the composing influence of good wine, as to pass into a temporary oblivion of ones situation, provided we do not stop short in the middle of a speech, or fail to answer a direct question when ones eyes are open. Edinburgh is well supplied with fish, both from fresh and salt water. Oysters are also plentiful. Our dinner resembled a French, as much as an English repast ; for though there were numerous courses, and meat of various kinds, there was wanting the towering ribs of roast beef, so essential to the well doing of John Bull in the important science of gastronomy. Dr. Hope was the first in Great Britain, who taught the reformed chemistry. He was at Paris thirty years ago, and dined, as I did, with Bertholet. He is a bachelor ; but his brother has a charming family.

20th. I went at half past nine to breakfast with Dr. Brown. He is not married, but lives with two of his sisters, as before mentioned, in Prince's-street. I have seldom passed a morning more pleasantly, than in conversation with this amiable trio. Dr. B. whether before his class or at his fireside, is the same mild, easy, social, and polite gentleman,—highly intelligent and instructive upon every topic of conversation,—without the least intrusiveness of manner. but gentle almost to a fault. He, as well as most of the savans whom I have met with here, appears to entertain very friendly feelings toward the United States, and looks with much interest to the progress

of our institutions. It has been gratifying to me, to hear them speak in flattering terms of the Americans who are here, either as travellers, or as medical students. Walter Scott and his writings hold a prominent rank, in the public consideration, and furnish an almost certain topic, in every literary coterie. There is very little hesitation any where, in giving him the entire credit of Waverly and all its congeners. It is well known that he bargains with the printer, for the copy, receives the money, and examines the proof sheets. One of my American acquaintance was informed by the chief bookseller, that he himself had paid him more than £55,000 for the Waverly and other productions, and he knew that he had received at least £15,000 from other publishers. His office of clerk is worth £1200 per annum; and in addition to this good fortune, an uncle of his wife died lately in the East Indies, and left her about £25,000. The difficulty which every body is under, of assigning any reasonable motive for his refusing to avow himself as the author, has led to the surmise that his brother, Thomas Scott, who resides in Canada, may be the real author. This brother, when a pupil of the high school, was distinguished by his readiness, and his turn for satire. His wife also, who is said to be exceedingly clever, is believed by some to have had no inconsiderable share in these productions. She came from Galloway, that part of Scotland whose local manners have been so wonderfully depicted in *Guy Mannering*, and is known to be conversant with the habits of the country. But the main current of public, and I may say, of enlightened opinion, is in favour of the clerk of the sessions,

notwithstanding that he is known, himself, to have written the review of the *Tales of my Landlord*, in the *Edinburgh Review*. But this is by no means a solitary instance of authors having reviewed their own works, in that very popular journal. There can be no objection to this, if reviews, as is now the fashion, are to be mere political or literary essays, with only a very slight notice of the author, whom they use for little more than a caption. But as the channel of fair and candid criticism, it is surely preposterous to allow a man thus to pass judgment on himself. I do not mean to assert that this has *often* been done, either in the *Quarterly* or *Edinburgh Review*; but that it is occasionally permitted, I have good authority for believing. Scott was formerly a bookseller, in this town, and an author at the same time; and probably a reviewer also.

The term “blue stocking,” as applied here very generally to literary ladies, is rather to be considered as contemptuous, or implying an inclination to go beyond their depth, or to pass current for more than they are worth in substantial literary stock. To those who possess real talents and acquirements, the term does not apply; or if applied, it falls, like a blunted arrow, harmless, to the ground.

In the course of our conversation, Dr. B. expressed the singular opinion, that a belief in ghosts, in early life, has a fine effect on the fancies of children; and that without such a belief, or at least without hearing ghosts talked of, we should have no notions of a spiritual existence.*

* The university and society of Edinburgh have been deprived of the talents of this amiable and enlightened man. He died at Brompton, in En-

LETTER XXXIV.

Edinburgh, 3d month, (March) 23d, 1819.

MY DEAR **** AND *****,

I GRATIFIED my curiosity to-day in a visit to Holy-Rood House, the ancient palace of the kings of Scotland. It is situated at the eastern extremity of High-street, the castle forming a picturesque object at the other end. This edifice has undergone, during the lapse of ages, so many changes, that none of the present buildings can lay claim to very great antiquity. It was burnt, when Mary, queen of Scots, was a minor; but soon underwent a complete repair. The soldiers of Cromwell destroyed a considerable part, which was repaired at the restoration of Charles II.

The present building is a quadrangle, with a court in the middle 230 feet square, surrounded by piazzas. The front is two stories high, with a flat roof, but the rest of the palace is three stories. At each corner of the front, or rather at each frontal extremity of the side buildings, are two round towers, surmounted with low turrets. On the first floor, on the north side, is a gallery 150 feet long, called the picture gallery, the walls of which are hung with the pretended portraits of 111 sovereigns, whose united reigns make a period of more than 2000 years. Most of these pictures, must, of course, be altogether ideal. In the

gland, on the 2d of April, 1820, aged about 42. His lectures on moral philosophy and metaphysics, have been published since his death. These, with his treatise on cause and effect, and several little volumes of poems, attest the richness of his mind, and the extent of his acquirements; but they cannot, I conceive, do justice to the amiableness of his disposition and the excellence of his character.

gallery are many pieces of Vandyke ; but the whole collection is black with smoke and dirt, and in miserable condition. The most interesting part of the palace, are the rooms that were occupied by the beautiful and unfortunate queen. They have been carefully preserved in the exact condition in which she left them. Her bed, with its coverlids and blankets, the chairs with their wrought seats, the hangings of the rooms, implements of the fire-place, drawers, cabinets, &c. are the same that were used by herself. You will, of course, conclude, that many of these things are in a very perishing state. The curtains and chair covers have become exceedingly tender, and the natural inclination of almost every stranger to carry with him a small piece of such relics, though guarded against by the keeper, has increased the ragged and forlorn aspect which time has impressed on those frail materials. I was taken to the little room in which Mary was closeted with Rizzio, when the conspirators broke in upon them. The assassins ascended by a narrow, private stair-case, and having stabbed Rizzio several times in her presence, they dragged him through her bed and drawing-rooms, into one corner of an anti-chamber, where he fell. The old lady, who conducted me through the rooms, showed me several dark spots on the floor, which are considered as marks of the blood of this favourite of his royal mistress. When I expressed some doubts of the possibility of the stain's remaining so long: "Indeed," said my guide, "the more we wash it, the more *conspiekyus* it *apeer*es." They seem to regard the preservation of the stain as something providential. The floor, I observed, was, in reality, kept

remarkably clean. The south rooms contain a number of pictures, and are furnished in the manner of "the olden time." These rooms belong to the Duke of Hamilton, who is the rightful keeper of the palace, and they are the only remains of the ancient building. The chapel of the palace is completely in ruins. The roof fell in and brought down with it one row of the pillars, and converted this part of the edifice into a beautiful and imposing ruin. In the yard are some of the oldest monuments I have ever seen. Some parts of this palace were fitted up magnificently, for the accommodation of the brother of Louis XVIII. and his two sons, the dukes D' Angouleme, and Berri, who lived here until they were removed to England. From a regard to ancient custom, Holy-Rood House is still allowed to afford a privileged asylum for insolvent debtors, against the prosecution of their creditors; and I am informed it is still so much resorted to for this purpose, that the houses and rooms near it, rent enormously high.

After hearing a lecture from Professor Jameson on geology, I attended a meeting of the Wernerian Society, held in the library of the University. About forty members were present. Dr. Brewster read a paper on the relation between the optical properties of crystals, and their primitive forms; a subject which, in consequence very much of his own researches, is likely to become of considerable importance to mineralogy. A paper was read by Dr. Hibbert, on the geology of one of the Shetland islands, accompanied with a suite of specimens, maps of strata, &c. A chairman is appointed at each meet-

ing. Dr. Barclay was the presiding officer on this occasion.

A dinner at the house of J. F*****, Esq. in the new town, introduced me to an interesting and most intelligent family. His wife is a person of uncommon merit, and much esteemed in the literary and philanthropic circles of this city. Their children, mostly grown up, show the fruits of such a mother's care,—amiable, modest, and exceedingly well instructed. There was a pretty large company at the table, the female part of which, as I have remarked in other places, were gaily dressed, the hair decorated with artificial flowers, while the neck, (with a liberal allowance for the term,) is left to ornament itself, by the red and white of simple nudity. But whatever judgment may be formed of dress and appearances. (and every country has its peculiarities,) there is, in the social manners of this city, as far as I have observed them, an honesty and openheartedness, a union of good sense and simplicity of demeanour, of masculine strength of understanding, and childlike candour, which can spring from no other source, than that liberality of feeling, which rises above petty distinctions, and does homage to truth and virtue wherever it appears. That this is the universal temper of society in Edinburgh, it would be presumptuous in me to affirm. Many circumstances appear even to be unfavourable to the growth and predominance of these unsophisticated principles of action. In no place in Great Britain, is the struggle of political contention more active and determined. In no place are intellectual talent and acquirement so necessary a pass-

port to distinction. The effervescence of party, political, religious, and literary, and the brandishings of earnest rivalry, are as obtrusive upon the public observation, in this city, as in Paris itself; and it would be difficult, I think, to name a place where

Nul n'aura de l'esprit
Hors nous et nos amis,

is more obviously the maxim of those who enter the lists of either of the contending parties, into which Edinburgh is divided. But notwithstanding this keenness of feeling towards political opponents, the native urbanity of the Scottish character, displays itself in all their social meetings, with a frankness and sincerity, which are sufficient to overcome those unnatural jealousies, and to open the heart to the most generous and kindly emotions.

With respect to political parties, the great weight of Scotch influence is in favour of the administration, notwithstanding the long and spirited opposition, and the great popularity of the Edinburgh Review. There are sixteen Scotch peers in Parliament, and thirteen of them vote on the ministerial side. In the Commons, there are forty-five members, thirty of whom are in favour of ministers.

In the course of conversation upon America, and the most prominent characters of our short but eventful history, my hosts informed me that they happened to dine, some years ago, in company with a noted New-York C——l, of duelling memory, who retreated to Europe, after the defeat of his projects in the west. Some one in the company extolled Washington, and appealed to the C——l for confirmation. He replied, that Washington was by no means the greatest cha-

racter that the country had produced, and immediately added, that *General Hamilton* was much his superior in political wisdom. The company were shocked, and could scarcely restrain their disgust at such a violation of decency and decorum.

The story of Hume's mother, having in her last moments, bitterly reproached him for depriving her, by the insinuations of his infidel sentiments, of all consolation,—though frequently reported, does not obtain general credit. One little anecdote, respecting this champion of infidelity, was related to me this evening, which is known to be authentic. Hume was anxious, after the publication of his essays, to learn the opinion of those, in whose judgment he placed the greatest confidence. Among these was an elderly Scotch lady, of great shrewdness, whom he was accustomed to consult with respect to his writings, and of whose approbation he was always solicitous. He sent her a copy of his book, as soon as published; and after a suitable time, waited upon her, to learn her opinion of its doctrines. "Ah, Dauvid," was her reply, "ye have shoun with a toom end, mon." In English, "you have stitched your garment with a thread without a knot on the end of it;" or, in other words, your system has no solid basis to rest upon, and it must therefore fall to pieces.

22d. In company with several friends, I went to the top of Arthur's Seat, a hill in the vicinity of the city, which rises 800 feet above the level of the water. The view from the summit, is exceedingly interesting. On the south west, are the Pentland hills, and towards the east, the Cheviots, at present covered with snow. Preston Pans, and Porto Bello, on the border of the Forth; the city, with its beautiful and

fantastic diversity of surface ; the town of Leith ; the wide water of the Forth, and the diversified county of Fifeshire beyond it, with a great number of noblemen and gentlemen's seats, in the more immediate vicinity, and several ancient castles, fill up a survey that will long charm the eye of every beholder. Land, in the neighbourhood of Arthur's Seat, lets for ten or twelve pounds per acre, and is, of course, under the highest cultivation.

I rode out to-day, with an estimable friend, to several places on the north of Edinburgh. Leith, where we first stopped, is the seaport of the capital, though situated two miles distant. It is on the banks of the Forth, and carries on an extensive foreign trade, and is now the seat of various manufactures, particularly of cordage and sail cloth, bottle and flint glass, soap, and wool cards. The population is very considerable ; but the town itself is unpleasant, the streets being narrow, crooked, and dirty, and the houses mean. Stages pass between the two towns, almost perpetually ; and from the rapid increase of intermediate buildings, they will soon be united into one. We stopped at a glass house, and saw the blowing of green bottles. The workmen, to gratify us, made a number of Rupert's drops, by letting fall into a bucket of water, a small quantity of the fluid from their pots. The property of this curious drop, of bursting into fine powder, when the small end is broken off, is known to almost every body ; but the phenomenon is still scarcely more explicable, than when Hudibras compared honour, to

“ The glassy bubble,
Which gives philosophers such trouble ;
A small piece crack'd, the rest will fly,
And wits are crack'd to find out why.”

We directed our course along the Queen's Ferry road, to Craig-Crook, the country residence of Francis Jeffery, Esq. On leaving the main road, we were doubtful of our way, and asked a girl if she could inform us. "Ye maun toorn," said she, "to the right haund, and get on till ye see the muckle white hoose." In my walks round Edinburgh, I have been accosted by labourers, whose Scottish dialect and accent were such as to render their meaning perfectly unintelligible. I had once quite a parley with a cart driver, before I discovered, more by gestures than words, that he wished to know the time of day.

The "muckle white hoose" soon appeared, and we were received by the Advocate in the most civil and unostentatious manner possible. This mansion, which J. has taken on a very long lease, was erected some hundred years ago, and is of a very irregular and awkward structure; but he has added much to its convenience and comfort. The situation is not particularly agreeable; but the country around it is extremely pleasant, and at a short distance on the south west, is a high ridge of land, the sides and summit of which are finely covered with wood, which makes it a very pleasant and cheerful object for the eye to repose upon. J. appears to have become very fond of the country, and of rural occupations. He holds about twenty acres. He took us over his garden, and talked of his farming with as much zest, as if it formed a part of the great business of law and politics, which fill up so much of his time. He showed us his library and private study; for even in his sylvan retreat, the period of quarterly publication will advance, and the claims of contend-

ing parties must be listened to. His private room is beautifully stuccoed and painted, so as to resemble an entire casement of polished oak. Over the mantle is a curious pannel, 400 years old, taken from an ancient chateau, and inserted into the wainscotting of the room with pleasing effect. The chimney of his drawing room in the city, had just received, at the time of my visit, an ornament of a different kind, though equally estimable for its age. It was an original Rembrandt, the portrait of a female, which he had obtained at a late sale. J——, has no doubt that Scott, is the author of Waverly, and the other novels. The play of Rob Roy has just been exhibited in Edinburgh. The actor of Bailie Jarvie, one of the characters, received a present of five guineas in a note, signed Jed. Cleishbottom, as a mark of his approbation, and it was pretty well known that the note came from the clerk of the sessions.

I had been informed that the Quarterly Review, though published in London, originated in Edinburgh, and that Scott was its principal founder. J. informed me that it was not got up in Edinburgh, though it is possible that S. might first have suggested it. He did not write in the first four or five numbers.

We had an agreeable dinner party to-day at J. P*****s, the Rector of the High School. I have seldom seen a table more variously spread, especially at this season of the year.

Although the system of instruction adopted in the High School, is professedly intended to be chiefly classical; P—— remarked, that he should think himself very deficient in his duty, in teaching the boys only Latin and Greek, and omitting to avail

himself of every suitable occasion to inculcate moral truth, and to excite them to intellectual exertion. This he regards as one of the most important advantages of classical instruction. He thinks it might be practicable to frame a course of English study, that would be equally efficacious in training the mind to the pursuit of knowledge, and in disciplining its powers to a close and vigorous application; but such a course of study would be exceedingly unpopular in Scotland. The government of the High School, was formerly dependent on the authority of the *ferula*; but at present, the system is happily changed. The emulation produced by the present mode of instruction, and the punishment of additional tasks, joined to the paternal treatment of the rector, are found entirely sufficient, without recourse to the "*argumentum baculinum*."

23d. A fondness for strong liquor appears to be still a national appetency in Scotland, and the more fashionable English beverage of port wine, has not been able to inhibit, even in the most intellectual circles, an occasional resort to the keener stimulus of punch and toddy. Highland whisky is in great repute; but the common kind, obtained by the usual process from fermented grain, finds a copious and ready sale. In walking this morning with several acquaintance, we stopped at a distillery on the borders of the town, merely to observe its prodigious extent. The engine employed in grinding the grain, is a machine of fifty-seven horse power, and moves five pairs of stones. The fermented liquor is distilled by the old fashioned boiler and condenser; but these are of so large a size, that the spirit ran from the worm in a

large stream. The grain which is thus sacrificed—I would say, to the turbulent and mischief making, rather than to the jolly god, is chiefly barley. Our next object of curiosity was a very different place. It is a foundation for the education of poor boys, called after the name of the founder, Heriot's Hospital. The building is large and accommodates 175 pupils, who are gratuitously maintained and educated. None are admitted under seven, nor retained over fourteen years of age. There are four masters,—one for Greek, Latin and French,—one for English,—one for mathematics,—and one for writing and book keeping. The pronunciation of the reading master was strongly Scottish. One of the boys, in reading his lesson, pronounced the word *conclude* as it is done in England, sounding the u like oo. “There is no *concloode* there,” said the master. The boy was much puzzled, for the word was under his eye. “It is *concllyude*,” vociferated the teacher, and the child had to conform. This institution was founded by George Heriot, in 1650. He was a jeweller and goldsmith to James VI. The building makes a handsome appearance, though erected in the antiquated style of turrets at the corners, and a square court within. It is said to have cost £30,000. The revenue left it by the benevolent founder, goes to the maintenance and education of poor and fatherless boys, the sons of freemen, belonging to the city of Edinburgh. Their living and tuition, are said to cost at least thirty pounds each per annum. Such of the scholars as wish for more extended instruction, after leaving this hospital, receive ten pounds a year for four years, and those who prefer a mechanical em-

ployment, have given them on quitting the house, the sum of thirty pounds.

We next visited the bridewell, situated on Calton-Hill. The prison is built on the *panopticon* principle of J. Bentham. It is of a semicircular form; or rather, it has the form of half a ring, with a watch tower in the centre of the circle. The sleeping cells are on the exterior part of the circle, having their windows in the outer wall. The working cells are on the inside, and are separated from the sleeping cells, on each floor, by a passage between them. The building is four stories high, besides the attic, which is used as an infirmary. The working cells are entirely open on the side next the centre of the circle, and hence, from the second story of the watch tower, the inspector is able, without being seen himself, to observe every thing that passes in each of these cells. On the outside of the watch tower and facing all the cells, is the pulpit, whence the minister can be seen and heard by all the prisoners, without their going out of the working cells. The chaplain attends twice a week for the purpose of worship. A school-master also attends daily to instruct those of the prisoners that are unable to read. There are, in the whole, 52 working rooms, and 144 sleeping cells.

Notwithstanding the ingenuity and apparent superiority of this construction, it has several material defects. It is too cheerful for the purpose of salutary discipline, and penitentiary confinement. The working rooms being entirely open next the centre, the prisoners can look into each other's apartments, and hold communication with each other by signs; and, though they are constantly liable to detection, they

will still find the means of indulging in a corrupt intercourse. Each prisoner is provided with a straw mattress, a pillow, a clean sheet, and two double blankets. Their food is wholesome and good. In short, there are too much comfortable living and hilarity in this prison, to answer the main purpose, of deterring the poor and vicious from the commission of crime. There are, at present, more than two hundred prisoners, though the sleeping rooms were intended to accommodate each only a single bed. These disadvantages of the Panopticon plan, are, I believe, so apparent, as to have prevented its adoption in many other places.

The gaol is situated near the Bridewell, and contains both convicts and debtors;—a bad arrangement, though they are here kept in separate apartments. The important principle of classification is too much neglected in this prison, owing, probably to the want of greater convenience. Cleanliness is strictly attended to, both here and in the Bridewell. In the latter the prisoners bathe once a week. There is little, if any, provision for the employment of prisoners in the jail. The governor's house is situated on a steep eminence, which completely overlooks the yards of the prison. The magistrates are erecting a new debtor's prison in the neighbourhood of the Bridewell, in which accommodations for labour will be provided.

We proceeded to the Astronomical Observatory, finely situated on Calton-Hill. It is a chaste and neat building, with four handsome fronts, and well furnished with solid stone pillars in the inside, as bases for the instruments. It is not yet finished, but it

will, when completed, reflect great credit on the taste, science, and public spirit of the city. The cost of the building will amount to £2500, and about £4000 more will be wanted to supply it with the requisite instruments. The whole will be raised by subscription.

The botanic garden of Edinburgh, to which my obliging friend A****, next conducted me, is on the road to Leith, and comprehends about six acres. It is kept in pretty good order, and contains some remarkably fine plants. Those in the eastern division of the garden are cultivated on the Linnæan arrangement, for the purpose of instruction; and in a retired and shady spot in this quarter, is a simple but beautiful marble monument, erected in honour of the great Swede, to whom the natural sciences will be everlastingly indebted, by Dr. Hope, father of the present professor, and at that time Professor of Botany. It is a vase supported on a pedestal, with this unostentatious inscription,

Linnæo posuit, Jo. Hope.

The public institutions of Edinburgh are very numerous,—religious, political, charitable, and literary; and they are supported with that intelligent liberality which becomes a people, so advanced in the refinements of genius, industry, and polished life. The city appears to be governed by an efficient police; judging, at least, from the general freedom from disorder in the streets. It has one institution, which is admitted to contribute very essentially to the preservation of order and security, viz. the “Society of High Constables.” This is a body of sixty, appointed by the magistrates, annually, from the most opulent mer-

chants and tradesmen. They are invested with power to seize and apprehend by night or day, to force their way into suspected houses, and to pursue offenders even beyond the city's jurisdiction; and all other constables, officers, and citizens, are obliged to assist them when called upon. This society has a president, treasurer, secretary, and chaplain.

The municipal authority of the city is vested in a town council, which consists of thirty-three members. The presiding officer, and chief magistrate, is called the Lord Provost. The council is not chosen by universal suffrage, nor by those who have the privilege of burgesses or freemen. They have, in some measure, the power of nominating themselves. There are, however, fourteen incorporated trades, each of which makes out a list of six persons, from which a considerable part of the council must of necessity be chosen. The revenues of the city are stated to amount now to upwards of £60,000 per annum.

The number of churches and meeting houses in Edinburgh, appear to me, notwithstanding the deficiency apparent to Sir H. Moncrieff and others, to bear a greater proportion to its population than in the large towns of England. Sects are numerous, and among them are names which I have seldom before noticed,—Burghers and Antiburghers, Glassites, Cameronians, Bereans, &c.

The society of Friends has but one meeting house, and that a small one; but in the number of its members, are several worthy characters.

I have not found time to scramble up to the castle, which is occupied chiefly as a fort, with a useless garrison. It stands on a perpendicular rock, 300 feet

high, accessible only on the east. In one apartment of it, queen Mary was delivered of her son, James VI. who united the crowns of the two kingdoms. In another, called the crown room, the regalia of Scotland was deposited in 1707. Some doubts having been entertained, respecting the actual state of the regalia, commissioners, one of whom was Walter Scott, were appointed last spring, by royal authority, to examine it. The room was closed by two doors, an outer one of oak, and an inner one of iron grates. These doors, it was ascertained, had not been opened since a former commission to search for records, in 1794. Nothing was found in the room, but a large oak chest, secured by two strong locks, which, as keys could not be found, were forced open with difficulty. It contained the crown, sceptre, and sword of state of Scotland, with a silver rod of office. The workmanship of the crown and sceptre, is said to be very elegant, and in good taste. The sword was a present from Pope Julius, to James IV. Nothing else was found in the chest, but a certified inventory of its contents. The whole was replaced, and the chest properly secured.

LETTER XXXV.

New Lanark, 3d month, (March) 26, 1819.

AFTER breakfasting on the 24th, with Dr. Murray,* and hearing a lecture from Dr. Hope, I spent most of the day in making calls preparatory to my departure. I shall leave Edinburgh, as every stranger must, who has the happiness to be received in good society, highly gratified with my visit, and with regret that I cannot longer remain to become more intimately and extensively acquainted with persons of so much talent, intelligence and polish, and withal so hospitable, as one finds in this city. There are few places in the world, where literature and luxury,—where the arts and elegancies of life, have made such rapid advances. That the morals of the city have been equally benefited, no one, I presume, would have the boldness to assert. The sturdy discipline of the covenanters, has yielded to the sway of modern fashions; and though there may be less of the mere outward form of religion, without the substance, than formerly,—it is to be feared, that there is also, in proportion to the great mass of the people, less of the substance itself. I would by no means insinuate, that the morality of Edinburgh, is comparatively bad;—lower than that of other cities in Great Britain, of equal population. I have reason to believe, that, in

* Dr. Murray, after spending some time in the south of England, for the benefit of his health, died at his house in Nicholson-street, Edinburgh, on the 22d of July, 1820. Few authors have contributed more, by the graces of style, and by the perspicuity of their illustrations, to increase the relish for chemical studies.

this respect, it stands remarkably well, notwithstanding the evidence, which the streets frequently afford, of female degradation, and of grossness and depravity among the lower classes.

The climate, during my stay here, has been rather unpleasant, on account of the prevalence of high winds, which have filled the streets with dust, and exposed the body to chills and cold. The town is lighted, to a considerable extent, with coal gas. There is a much greater throng in the principal streets, when the weather is good, than in any of our towns; but the proportion of females, who thus exercise themselves, in the open air, is much smaller than in the cities of France.*

25th. Furnished with various letters to Glasgow and Ireland, by my Edinburgh friends, among whom I am happy to rank some, who, by those that go no further than the surface of mind, might be denominated *blue stockings*; but whose actual strength of intellect, would justify them in retorting the epithet:—and last of all, taking a kind leave of those “friends,” to whom I was indebted for the first offers of hospitality, I left Edinburgh in the coach for Lanark, where I arrived about five, P. M. The weather was cold and windy, and the road, during much of the distance, lay

* The population of this superb city, has been rapidly increasing. It comprehends, with the town of Leith, fourteen parishes, which contained, in 1811, 102,693 inhabitants. In 1821, the number had increased to 133,235. The largest parish, St. Cuthbert, in 1811, contained 38,673; and in 1821, 50,597. In the ancient and extended royalty of Edinburgh, the total number of persons is 51,768, who occupy 2,654 houses; making an average of $19\frac{1}{2}$ persons to each house. Edinburgh itself, independent of Leith, contained, in 1821, 102,235 inhabitants, having increased, in the preceding ten years, about 20,000.

through a bleak moor. As my visit here was to the noted establishment of Robert Owen, I repaired to Braksfield-house, his residence, and being informed he was at the mills, I immediately took the direction, and met him at New Lanark, in the centre of its busy population.

I know no man of equal celebrity, whose manners are less imposing, and who has more of the candour and openness of a child.

This manufacturing village, of which R. Owen is almost the sole director, has become famous throughout Great Britain. A brief description of it will, I am confident, be agreeable to you; and I shall proceed in it, in the same regular order of occurrences, which I have hitherto observed.

The village presented, upon my entering it, a very neat and interesting appearance, affording, in this respect, a remarkable contrast with old Lanark, about two miles distant, where the coach stopped. It is beautifully situated, on the right bank of the Clyde, which is here a small but romantic stream. It has grown entirely, and recently, out of the manufactory, which is exclusively that of spinning cotton. The whole population is about 2500, 1600 of whom are employed in and about the mills; the rest being mothers, engaged in their domestic affairs, or children too young for labour. The houses are mostly uniform in their structure, built of stone, with a roof of slate, and kept, to all appearance, in great decency, attention being evidently paid to cleanliness throughout the whole establishment. The people were returning from their work, as we approached the mills; and in passing us, they showed a cheerfulness and cour-

tesy of demeanour, which evinced their content ; and indeed, their general appearance bespoke health and satisfaction. Two of the boys fell into a dispute as they moved along, and one of them struck the other. Owen reproved them for this misconduct, and told me it was the first blow he had seen struck for years. The avowed principle upon which this large concern is regulated and conducted, is that of humanity to the labourers, in the most extensive and philosophical application of the term. It includes of course the consideration of their welfare, physical, intellectual, and moral. The whole is subjected to a strict discipline ; but this discipline is studiously adapted to their wants, and is intended to produce the greatest possible share of cheerfulness and contentment, which their situation will admit of.

No one can converse with Robert Owen half an hour on this subject, without perceiving that his views are, in some respects, original ; and without hearing him announce principles, which appear to be at variance with all established notions of the fundamental doctrines of genuine philanthropy. His theory, judging from his writings, as well as his conversation, appears to be that of a visionary schemer ; destitute of the principles which we are accustomed to consider as lying at the root of all true benevolence. His practice, however, is obviously the reverse of all this. No man, perhaps, ever took more pains, or exerted himself more successfully, to promote the happiness of his own family, than Owen has done to render his 2500 villagers, harmonious, contented, and happy. The materials he had to work with were very discordant. When he first introduced his particular schemes of re-

formation, he was regarded by almost every body with distrust; and so strong was the prejudice against his measures, that he found it difficult to procure, even among the half starving population of the district, labourers, who would consent to fall in with his regulations. At present, he has applications from far and near, to a greater amount than he can possibly furnish with employment. But to proceed with the description.

After taking coffee in the house of one of his clerks, we awaited the hour of school. A neat and commodious building has been erected for the purpose of instruction, in a pleasant spot near the centre of the village. The manufactories close uniformly at half past six; hence none of that overstraining by which the health of children and young people are so much injured in other manufacturing towns, is here permitted. The evenings of the youth are devoted to the schools, and as many of the adults as choose, may also avail themselves of the instruction of the teachers. The first room we entered was a singing school, in which were both boys and girls, arranged on benches, and singing in chorus, under the direction of an instructor. On listening to the words of the song, judge my surprise on finding, that, instead of a hymn, it was a love song, beginning with,

“ And will you love me, deary.”

Passing into the next room, I found there a music-school. Half a dozen or more little fellows had each a flute, and were piping it away in notes that did not preserve the strictest accordance. The next apartment we entered, was a large room for reading, wri-

ting, and arithmetic. Some of the pupils in this room were pretty well advanced in age. From this we went into a large room above-stairs, where were fifty or sixty young people, both boys and girls, attending to the lessons of a dancing-master. These young students of the “merry mood,” were not equipped in all the gaiety of a fashionable ball-room; though there was, probably, as great a diversity of costume as would be seen in a “belle assemblée” of Paris or Edinburgh. In fact, they were in much the same style as that in which they had left the manufactory,—some with shoes, and others barefoot. The dancing-master, too, was the painter and glazier of the village; who, after handling the brush all day, took up the fiddle in the evening, and instructed his motley group in the profound mysteries of the highland reel.

Owen’s aim in all this is to make his villagers a *moral* and happy people. He wishes to relieve their minds and bodies as much as possible from the fatigues of labour, and he goes to work in his own way. He does not, I believe, compel any of his subjects to dance; but, if they choose it, he gives them the opportunity of learning how. Human nature, he says, is not understood by any class of society, and he has discovered that dancing is one of the means of reforming vicious habits. This he thinks it effects by promoting cheerfulness and contentment, and thus diverting the attention from things that are vile and degrading. Before the evening school closes, the pupils all collect into one room, and sing a hymn.

After leaving this singular school of moral reformation, he took me home with him, and gave me a kind introduction to his wife and family. He is so zealous

in his wishes to benefit society, and so confident of the soundness of his views, and the importance of his plans of improvement, that if his visitors are inclined to hear, he will entertain them as long as they please, with the details of his system. His manners, as I have already remarked, are altogether unobtrusive. He wishes to gain his point by illustration and persuasion; but as it is impossible to listen to him without objecting to some of his fundamental positions, argument becomes unavoidable. We sat up till twelve, engaged in a wordy warfare upon the best means of correcting the abuses of society, and making the whole world a band of brothers. He is confident that this would be the happy result, were his measures universally adopted. Pauperism would become unknown; for every individual would be at liberty to exert his faculties of body and mind, in such a way, as to provide most efficaciously for all his natural wants. Wars would cease, because no one would have the inclination to invade the rights of another. Idleness would vanish, because every man would find more pleasure in useful activity. The turbulent and angry passions would subside, for every one would find it his interest to treat others rationally and kindly. The pursuit of gain and the thirst for riches would disappear, because every man, finding himself perfectly comfortable, would have no wish to be richer than his neighbour. Ambition, as a passion of the human breast, would die a natural death; for, in this happy state of things, it would find no aliment to subsist upon. In short, such would be the just and equal balance between the wants of mankind, and the means of supply—between rational desire, and the

power of gratification, that discontent and distress would become unknown.

This, you will conclude, is to be the millenium of *Christianity*, and brought about by the mild and powerful influence of the *Gospel*. But here you are mistaken. Christianity is to have nothing to do with it. The world has always been in an error, and human nature has never been understood. In point of merit, there is no great difference in the various systems of religion. Christianity, Judaism, Mahommedanism, Hindooism, and all other creeds, are founded in prejudice and delusion. All you have to do, is to place men exactly in that situation in which every one will find it most conducive to his pleasure and comfort to act justly, and to study the welfare of others as well as his own.

As it might be imagined, there is very little logic in Owen's reasoning. You may encircle him with the cords of reason and argument, but instead of labouring to untie the knots, he snaps the string, and takes his stand in another position. He neither interrupts nor contradicts one. His good nature suffers no perturbation, either from argument, wit, or ridicule. Though he has no religion of his own, holding to no system that has ever been promulgated, and even believing that they have all done much more harm than good; he is willing others should enjoy theirs, provided they fulfil its duties without molesting their neighbours.* His favourite maxim is

* That it may not be supposed that I have misunderstood, or willingly misrepresented Robert Owen's views of religion, I avail myself of an address of his to the editor of the *Limerick Chronicle*, on this particular topic. The following is the letter :—

that "man is the creature of circumstance." His character is always formed by others, and not by himself; surround him therefore with circumstances, favourable to the developement of his best dispositions,

Limerick, Jan. 27, 1823.

SIR—In your paper of Saturday last, I am requested by a gentleman who signed himself "A Citizen," to explain what my views are respecting religion, with the arrangements for its support in the intended colonies—and, as I feel the time is arrived for this developement, I meet his wishes with pleasure.

I have often been urged to declare myself in favour of some one sect of religion, and it is, perhaps, due to the public, that I should now explain my sentiments on this important subject.

For nearly forty years I have studied the religious systems of the world, with the most sincere desire to discover one that was devoid of error—one to which my mind and soul could consent; but the more I have examined the faiths, and practices which they have produced, the more error in each has been made manifest to me; and I am now prepared to say, that all, without a single exception, contain too much error to be of any utility in the present advanced state of the human mind. There are truths in each religion, as well as errors in all; but, if I have not been too much prejudiced by early education, and surrounding circumstances, to judge impartially between them, there are more valuable truths in the Christian Scriptures than in others,—but a religion to be pure and undefiled, and to produce the proper effect upon the life and conduct of every human being, and to become universal, must be so true, that all who run may read, and so reading, may fully comprehend. A religion of this character, must be devoid of forms, ceremonies, and mysteries, for those constitute the errors of all the existing systems, and of all those which have hitherto created anger, and produced violence and bloodshed throughout society. A religion devoid of error will not depend for its support upon any name whatever. No name, not even Deity itself, can make falsehood true—no name, not even Deity itself, can make truth into falsehood. A pure and genuine religion, therefore, will not require for its support, or for its universal promulgation and acceptance by the human race, any name whatever, nor ought, except the irresistible truths which it shall contain. Such religion will possess whatever is valuable in each, and exclude whatever is erroneous in all, and, in due time, a religion of this character, freed from every inconsistency, shall be promulgated. Then will the world be in possession of principles which, without any exception, will produce corresponding practices, and then all shall see, face to face, clearly and distinctly, and no longer through a glass, darkly. In the mean time, however, while the change shall be gradually

and he will become exactly the being which he ought. But, instead of connecting this sentiment, as the Christian religion teaches us to do, with the motives which spring from our immortal prospects, and with our dependence on the promises and the providence of God, he rejects this as unnecessary, or even regards it as a prejudice that may do more harm than good. He even maintains the opinion, that the doctrine of future accountability, has been the occasion of most of the evils with which the world has been afflicted! That such sentiments should be found in union with a practical philanthropy, apparently as disinterested as it is beneficent and effective, is a circumstance which has seldom occurred in the history of civilization.

His wife appears to be a religious and pious person, educating her children in the belief in which she

working in the minds of those who have been compelled to receive error, mixed with truth, it is intended, that no violence shall be offered to the conscience of any one, and that, in the proposed new villages, full provision shall be made for the performance of religious worship, according to the practices of the country in which the villages shall be situated. That to the extent which the present form of society admits, there shall be full liberty of conscience for every individual, and all will be recommended to have real charity for their brethren of the human race, who have been made to differ from them in opinions, which all must now perceive have been formed by the geographical circumstances of their birth.

Ample provision will also be made by the inhabitants of each village for the support, in the highest comfort, of the ministers of the respective persuasions, and, in consequence, all of them will be held in estimation, according to their real usefulness in the community.

To me it appears, that this mode of proceeding can alone calm the present irritations of society, and prepare the human mind for the reception of that divine charity, which, when received, will insure peace to every bosom, and extend its beneficial influence over the whole earth.

ROBERT OWEN.

was brought up. To this her husband makes no opposition; nor does he object at all to the religious exercises of the different sects, which prevail among the labourers at New Lanark.

26th. The servant, on entering my chamber this morning, with a dressing apparatus, brought with him also a Bible. Whether this was by the particular direction of his master, or whether my host usually takes this method with his guests, to denote his liberality, I do not know. It was the first instance of the kind which has occurred to me, since my arrival in Europe, though I have not unfrequently found a Bible on the table of my lodging room.

After breakfast we went to the mills, and spent the interval till a late dinner hour, in viewing the improvements and in walking to the falls of the Clyde, about a mile above the village, and surveying the delightful scenery of that region. The buildings of the factory are very large, and the machinery is in excellent style. The whole of it is made on the premises, by workmen skilled in all the complicated operations of metal and wood, connected with the fabrication and erection of the extensive apparatus of such an establishment. The hours of labour are from six till nine, when they breakfast; from ten to two, when they dine; and from three to half past six; making in the whole ten and a half hours. The wages of the spinners vary from 10s. to 1s. 6d. per week, according to age and ability. The education of their children is given to them without cost, or at least upon very moderate terms, though its expense to the establishment is not less than £700 per annum. At present, every family cooks its own provision, but

a building is nearly completed which is designed as a kitchen for the whole village; and a refectory in which about one-fourth of them may take their meals at a time. Owen believes, that from four to five thousand pounds a year will be saved by this arrangement, besides the superior training and improved habits it will produce. The second story of this large building will contain a reading and lecture room, and a ball room for all the adult fashionables of the village; for I am told, that were I to see these people in their "Sunday decorations," I should be astonished at the contrast. A library is also nearly in readiness for the use of the villagers. All the principal buildings are warmed by steam, and a plan is on foot to extend this mode of warming to the dwelling houses, after the necessity of cooking in these shall be superseded by the general kitchen. There are four distinct religious societies among the labourers; viz. the National Kirk, the Gaelic, Methodists, and Independents.

Inglesby, a famous conjuror, has been exhibiting at Lanark his thousand tricks, and has obtained leave to show his feats in the new town to-morrow evening. But this, I believe, is to be at the expense of the work people themselves. This man travels with his daughter, in a handsome equipage; having, it is said, realized a fortune by his dexterous exploits.

Such assiduous and expensive efforts to ameliorate the condition of labourers, as have been made at New Lanark, have occasioned manufacturers in other places, to prophesy its dissolution, from a belief that such heavy expenses could not be supported by the profits. The whole concern belongs to a few pro-

prietors, (in addition to Robert Owen,) who joined in the enterprize, from a wish to give a fair trial to a lenient and benevolent system of management; and so far from its having proved a loss to the company, it has yielded them an interest of twelve and a half per cent on the original stock.

Large manufactories, in which young people, of various ages, and of both sexes, are indiscriminately employed, are considered as unfriendly to morals; but it would appear from the results of New Lanark, that the superior instruction here bestowed and the more elevated tone of social intercourse which arises from it, tend to counteract the vulgar propensities and to prevent the evils which so commonly prevail in those crowded establishments.

We visited the schools again to-day. The children are not allowed to go into the factories, till they are about ten years of age, but are kept till that time steadily at the day schools. One apartment of the school afforded a novel and pleasing spectacle. It consisted of a great number of children, from one to three or four years of age. They are assembled in a large room, under the care of a judicious female, who allows them to amuse themselves with various selected toys, and occasionally collects the oldest into a class, and teaches them their letters. They appeared perfectly happy, and as we entered, the little creatures ran in groups, to seize their benefactor by the hand, or to pull him by the coat, with the most artless simplicity. This baby school is of great consequence to the establishment. for it enables mothers to shut up their houses in se-

curity, and to attend to their duties in the factory, without concern for their families.*

The scenery at the falls of the Clyde, is picturesque and beautiful. It reminded me of Passaic in New-Jersey, though there is more wildness and sublimity at the latter place, and the perpendicular height of the fall is greater.

In the course of our rambles to-day, my attentive friend manifested the same zeal for the welfare of the indigent classes throughout the kingdom, that he has shown in his writings and on various public occasions, and the same confidence in the issue of his plans of reform. It is in vain that his friends have urged to him, that the total destitution of religious faith and principle which marks his scheme, must inevitably, in such a community as this, prevent its adoption; or if adopted as the means of national relief, prevent

* Schools upon a similar plan, have been since established in several other places, particularly in Westminster, London, and in the city of Bristol. If rightly planned and conducted, the tendency of such infant seminaries cannot but be propitious to the best interests of the poor, to morals and to humanity. Children are admitted in them, from two to five years of age; and by various contrivances, attended with little expense, they are so amused as to remain all the day long contented and happy; while, at the same time, the waywardness of their tempers is overcome by the most rational and gentle means, and they are gradually initiated into the rudiments of knowledge, by methods which excite neither pain nor aversion. Mothers, by being thus relieved from the charge of their younger children during the day, are at liberty to go out to work, or to attend more uninterruptedly to their concerns at home; and children, thus early introduced to habits of order and decency of behaviour, must become more docile and fit subjects for the Lancasterian schools.

An interesting exposition of the rise, progress, plan, and utility of these infant schools, has recently been published by Dr. Pole of Bristol, which deserves to be read by every person interested in the welfare and education of the poor in large cities, and other populous places.

its success. No argument can dislodge him from his strong hold. It is not, perhaps, wonderful that the extraordinary success of his plans in this now interesting village, should have given a confidence to his opinions, which, under other and very different circumstances, would not be justified.

There is not, I apprehend, to be found in any part of the world, a manufacturing village, or a community of equal extent, composed of persons indiscriminately brought together, without any peculiar bond of fraternity, in which so much order, good government, tranquillity and rational happiness prevail. It affords an eminent and instructive example of the good that may be effected by well directed efforts to promote the real comforts, and I may add, the morality of the indigent and labouring classes. No person, I am persuaded, can retire from this charming village, without a renewed conviction of the vast influence which an enlightened philanthropy may exert over the destinies and happiness of mankind. But still, it is evident that any inference drawn from the results of New Lanark, would be very unfairly applied to colonies or communities, in which the precepts of Christianity were totally neglected, and all the sanctions of religion entirely withheld. Here, the moral influence of the Gospel is in active operation. The inhabitants of the village are attentive to their religious observances. The founder of the establishment, David Dale, the father in law of Robert Owen, under whose superintendence the village acquired considerable reputation, was a religious man.* The

* In the reports of the "Society for bettering the condition of the Poor," vol. 2, the village is stated to contain 1500 inhabitants, "of whom all capable

other proprietors also, (the principal of whom are our friends *. *****, and ***** *****, of London,) are solicitous to preserve undiminished among these people, the force of religious obligation, and they add the weight of their names, their injunctions and example, to that effect.

But Owen, as I have before hinted, goes far beyond this. He considers New Lanark as affording a very imperfect specimen indeed of the happiness and dignity of a community, governed solely by the principles of an enlightened reason, and freed entirely from that mass of prejudice and superstition, which the various religious systems of the world, one and all, have saddled upon the human mind. Nothing can be more simple too, than his plan of reform. Man is the creature of circumstance. He has nothing to do with the formation of his own character, his own faith, or his own opinions. Born and educated in China, he would follow Confucius; in India, he would worship Juggernaut: in Turkey, he would be a Musulman, and in Rome, a Papist. He is ferocious, placable, avaricious, or generous, merely as circumstances impel him. All you have to do, therefore, is to surround him with circumstances exactly adapted to the dispositions and habits he ought to possess, and he would become just what he should be. His evil

of work, are employed about the mills—of these, there are 500 children fed, clothed and educated by Mr. Dale. Out of 3000 employed during a period of twelve years from 1785 to 1797, only 14 have died, and not one has been the subject of judicial punishment. Mr. Dale has engaged three regular masters, who instruct the lesser children during the day; in the evening they are assisted by seven others, one of whom teaches writing. *On Sundays, they conduct them to the place of Divine Worship, and in the evening of Sunday, attend to assist them, by religious and moral instruction.*" Such was New Lanark, under its pious founder, David Dale, in 1800.

propensities would be either entirely suppressed, or they would be rendered harmless, by the irresistible weight of the good example around him. Such is the philosophy of a man, who maintains that human nature is not understood by any class of society; that there must be an entire change in all existing institutions; that the world has ever been in an error; and that all the governments and religions that have ever existed, have done little more than heap one prejudice and delusion upon another. A new light, however, is now dawning upon the world, and the germ of a glorious revolution has at length sprung forth at New Lanark, and will unquestionably spread throughout the earth!! There is no want of candour in Robert Owen. He makes no false claims to originality in his principles, though he maintains, I believe, that he is new, in his views of the best mode of promoting general reformation. It delights him to find that other persons have held the same doctrines that he does. He has written and published much, in illustration of his plans, and he has enforced them by public discourses in various parts of the kingdom. Very few indeed, are yet convinced; but he still fully believes that his principles are gaining ground, and will eventually triumph over all opposition, as certainly as the light of the sun overpowers all the minor luminaries.

That his views are extravagant, and, considered in relation to the extent to which he proposes to carry his plans, quite absurd, I think it can require but very little reasoning to prove. If he could point out a single instance in the history of the whole world, in which communities of men have remained united for any considerable length of time, studious of each

other's welfare, and pursuing a course of justice and moderation with all around them, independently of the powerful influence of religion, or of the stimulus of some common danger, or common ambition excited by some peculiarity of personal or local condition, we might admit that his theory is not without some basis to rest upon.

But although we have multiplied instances, in which the selfish passions are effectually controled by surrounding circumstances, yet in every case within my recollection, there is an operative principle far different from, and far superior to, that of considerations of mere temporary advantage. In all military communities, to which Owen sometimes refers as an example of unity of action, the primary motive is either pay, patriotism, or ambition; and when these bodies are once formed, the controlling principle is despotic force, or military law. In all civil associations, in which property is held in common, as in the instance of the Shakers and Harmonists of America, the fraternizing principle is evidently the force of religious persuasion, founded upon some peculiar views of Christianity. And so in all other cases, the connective bond is either a common sentiment of religious duty, or a common feeling of external danger. Now, there can be no doubt, that an individual or a family, depressed by poverty, and distressed by actual or anticipated suffering, would willingly become an obedient member of a community, which would afford them an adequate protection from the evils they have endured. And if, on such a change, they experience a greater share of comfort and happiness, than they have before enjoyed, their wants easily satisfied, and their

children well educated and taught to labour, they may, doubtless, resign all views of further change, and willingly conform to the duties of their new allotment.

As a means therefore, of promoting the welfare of the poor, far more effectual as it regards both their morals and their happiness, and infinitely less expensive and oppressive, than the existing system of workhouses and poor laws, and forced maintenance, such manufacturing and agricultural communities as New Lanark, and that before alluded to in Holland, I have no doubt, may become eminently beneficial: but to suppose, as Robert Owen does, that all human enterprise can be circumscribed within his quadrangular villages, and his agricultural colonies; that the vast policy of cities, the energies of commerce, and the powerful rivalship of nations, can be reduced to such mathematical dimensions; or that it would be eventually profitable to the human mind, to have them so reduced, is, I cannot but believe, to betray a wonderful deficiency in the knowledge of human nature.

But independently of the utter insufficiency and emptiness, of any extensive scheme of human improvement, which does not embrace the inherent force of moral power,—and of all attempts at moral power, which do not recognise its foundation upon religious faith and the sanctions of futurity—Robert Owen's views of what he calls the "influence of circumstances," carry him, I think, to an extravagant length. I have no belief that the human mind, when its powers are perfectly expanded by education, can be subjected to the mere machinery of circumstances.

to the extent which his system supposes. How often do we discover, in particular individuals, an inherent vigour, which, bursting the shackles of education, and disdaining the control of surrounding examples, soars into a new sphere, and exhibits the human character in a new and peculiar light. And may we not suppose, that in proportion to the extension of education, and the advancement of science and the arts, will be the frequency of such instances of aberration from the ordinary track of circumstances?

Such powers and propensities have not been planted in our mental soil for unimportant purposes; and it cannot be the part of a sound and discriminating philanthropy, so to pare down their exuberances, and to give them such an artificial direction, as to injure their native strength, or pervert their natural uses.

There is something in the great mixture of human things, which is beyond our comprehension; and certainly beyond our control. That a vast amount of good can be done by benevolent effort, and that no age was ever more distinguished for a wise and extended beneficence than the present, I fully believe. Nevertheless, it will be dangerous to attempt too much,—to make an effort to accomplish what the moral power of society is unable to execute.

That every attempt to produce a material change in the exterior relations of mankind, upon a system which even admits that the bonds of religious union are useless and unnecessary, must inevitably fail, is my firm persuasion; and no person, I think, can spend a day at this village, as I have done, in company with its intelligent director, without regretting

that so much practical talent and such unaffected benevolence, should be found united with the cold speculations of a stubborn scepticism, which finds no motives for the cultivation of its highest powers of mind and heart, but such as are limited to this momentary stage of existence. Such a union presents, as it appears to me, quite an anomaly in the human character.

In our return from New Lanark to dinner, we were met by a woman, who earnestly solicited a place in the manufactory, she said she had eleven *bairns*, and had come a considerable distance to obtain the situation. But as there was no immediate opening for such a family, her petition could not be granted.*

* If I have in any respect mistaken, or in any degree misrepresented, the views of Robert Owen, I am persuaded that *he* would be one of the last to regard it as an intentional error. No man more openly courts investigation, or, with more candour, calls upon those who have seen his village, and heard him explain his views, to state their objections. His plans for improving the condition of the labouring classes, and for the relief of the indigent, are now pretty well known, both in Europe and America; and could they be deprived of their most objectionable feature, (the exclusion of Christianity,) and this he very freely consents to, and divested of some of their extensive generalities, I cannot but believe that his scheme of establishing agricultural and manufacturing villages, if placed under the management of a mild and generous enthusiasm, like his own, would have a most beneficial influence in many parts of the world.

LETTER XXXVI.

Belfast, 4th month, (April) 5, 1819.

I LEFT the kind family at Braksfield, on the morning of the 27th, and took a post coach to Glasgow. The country along the Clyde is delightfully cultivated, and affords a beautiful diversity of prospect, from the alternation of hills and meadows, excellent farms, and gentlemen's seats. The road passed through Hamilton, a town of considerable size, in which the houses are almost universally covered with straw. I was surprised to see so many females travelling the road on foot, and still more so at the custom which they generally adopt, of walking barefooted. Some of them, who were very decently, and even genteelly dressed, chose to carry their shoes and stockings in their hands, and travel through the mud with bare legs and feet, although the weather was by no means warm; and, indeed, at the same time that their legs and feet were thus exposed, their bodies were well wrapped up in red cloaks, and their heads covered with hoods. Custom is a most arbitrary instructress; but whether this reversion of the medical maxim, "*keep the head cool and the feet warm,*" is really better adapted to the temperament of Scotch women, than its faithful observance, is a question I shall not attempt to solve.

I was recommended to the Tontine, which I found to be a large inn in the most populous part of Glasgow. Under the same roof is an extensive news room, and in front is a bronze statue of William III. The

merchants assemble under the large piazza of this inn, to transact their business.

After taking tea with a friend to whom I was introduced from Edinburgh, he accompanied me to the house of Dr. Chalmers, for whom I had a letter from Dr. Mason of New-York. Although it was on the evening of the last day of the week, he received us with great politeness, and said we had come at the right time, for he had just then nothing to do. He introduced us to his wife, a remarkably fine person, younger than himself, and of very agreeable manners. They have two children, both young. Dr. C. is very animated in conversation. His person is rather above the middle size, his features are manly, full of expression, and would be counted handsome, had not the smallpox left its impressions upon them. He made many enquiries respecting America and entered soon upon the subject of pauperism. He is very decided in his opinion, of the injurious effects of poor laws, upon the morals and habits of the people. He regards education, and religious instruction, and the moral superintendence of neighbourhoods and acquaintanceship, as the main safeguards, in preventing an increase of pauperism. He does not even wish the collections at the church doors, which are the principal means of raising money for the poor in Scotland, to be considered as a fund for any other purpose than education. His parish contains 9000 inhabitants, and in a part of the city in which there is a large proportion of poor. The magistrates have resigned to him the sole direction of the paupers within its limits, and he intends to have them managed according to his own views of the best methods of di-

minishing the evils of poverty. His parish is districted for the purpose of Sabbath school instruction. There are 33 schools of about 30 each, some of which are held in private rooms. The effect is considered as decidedly favourable. It is the low price and the general extension of education in Scotland, which has given a character of intelligence and thriftiness to its population. The teacher of a common school, generally receives four shillings per scholar, from the parents, and twenty-five pounds a year from the magistrates. This, with a house and garden, is his whole living. Dr. C. is an advocate for the promulgation of the principles of peace, by means of societies, though aware of the difficulties to be encountered, in consequence of the military nature of the governments of the earth.

28th. Few persons, it may be presumed, who visit Glasgow, would wish to leave it without hearing so celebrated a preacher as Dr. Chalmers. Discovering last evening, my wish to be at the Tron Church, he requested me to inquire for his pew, and seat myself with his family. I accordingly went this morning, and found no difficulty in getting admission and obtaining a seat as desired. The house was very full, which I am informed is usually the case. The sermon was from the second chapter of the First Epistle of John, 15, 16, and 17. It consisted, chiefly, of an eloquent statement of the loose manner in which Christianity is generally professed; of its being as much opposed to our natural wills now, as it was to those of the Pagans, at the period of its first promulgation; and lastly, of arguments to demonstrate its obligations, upon our daily practice. It was a great

sermon ;—composed in the same vivid style as his printed discourses, but deriving much additional force and impressiveness from his singularly animated and energetic delivery. He begins with a low voice, which, with a remarkably broad Scottish accent, rendered the first two or three sentences, to me, almost unintelligible, though I sat near him. But he very soon appears to forget himself in the interest which the subject excites in his own mind, his voice and manner kindle as he advances, until he becomes so entirely absorbed in the cause he is advocating, as to exhibit, by the strongest emphasis and the most vehement action, the powerful impulses of his breast. It is, I think, impossible, that so much earnestness could flow from any other source, than a deep conviction of the weight and majesty of his subject. In some of the most emphatic parts of it, you would think that the pulpit would scarcely contain him, and that his physical strength must fail him before he gets through. Yet so well appportioned is this extraordinary display of voice and gesture, to the varying points of his discourse, as never to appear inappropriate or extravagant. It produced, occasionally, an almost electric effect on the audience, not a person of whom was there, that did not seem to be all eye and ear.

There is probably no living preacher that has so great a popularity as Dr. Chalmers, and it is no where greater than in his own parish ; and I think it is much to his credit, as well as to that of his auditors, that this popularity results in a great measure from his thorough dealing with them ;—from his exposing to them, with unsparing truth, the real deformity of vice in every shape ; and his showing that true Christianity

requires a dedication of all the faculties, and a conformity of the whole heart. His style, both of writing and speaking, possesses much originality; and in what way soever the strict rules of criticism may apply to it, it is wonderfully calculated for the purpose it is intended to answer,—to fix the general attention of the reader and hearer, to the subjects it treats of; and its immediate influence upon his congregation, is evidently such as he would naturally desire. His astronomical discourses were in such demand, that 7000 copies were printed and sold of the first edition.

There is a meeting of the society of Friends in Glasgow, which I attended at half past two. The number of members is smaller than at Edinburgh.

29th. At nine I went with my friend A. W*****, to breakfast with Dr. Chalmers. On meeting us in the anti-chamber, he said it was their custom to perform family worship before breakfast, and wished us to use our freedom, either to join them, or to seat ourselves in another room, till it was done. We chose the former. The servants were collected; the Doctor read a chapter in the Bible; the family then knelt, and he prayed for forgiveness of sins, and for the light and guidance of the Spirit through the day.

In adverting again to the subject of pauperism, Dr. C. objected to those independent benevolent societies, which are now so common in large cities. Though they originate from the purest motives, and may cherish the spirit of true benevolence, especially among their female members, they relax the efforts of the poor. His scheme is to induce the poor to help each other. Every thing that tends to inspire them with self-respect, and to make them feel that they have a

character to support, will go to diminish their sufferings, and to improve their condition. Their penny subscriptions have done more for the Bible Society, than the guineas and half guineas of the more wealthy. Auxiliary Savings Banks have been opened in various parts of Glasgow, and are found to be extremely beneficial. The poor of this city, are at present supported by a public tax, as in England; the amount of which, for the whole town, is about £12,000 per annum. The population is about 130,000. A very large proportion of the poor are Irish.

Dr. C. walked with me through part of the town. He is rather inattentive to his dress and person, and has much of the abstractedness, which generally goes to the credit of genius. He wears a deep crowned hat, drawn so much over his eyes, as to disfigure him. He is above all the little arts, by which some men attempt to build greatness upon personal dignity, or gracefulness of manners. In short, his genius is almost as strongly marked in the *man*, as in the *preacher*. I have been told, by one of his friends, that having left his house, at a very early hour, one morning, with a bundle under his arm, to take his departure for some neighbouring place, in a steam boat, he was arrested by one of the city watch, who did not know him, and who insisted on conveying him to the watch-house. Dr. C. impatient to be interrupted, told the man who he was. "Na, na," said the guard of the police, "yure no Dr. Chalmers; he's not such a man as you; and he'd not be seen strolling at this hour." To the watch house therefore he went, where he was immediately recognised, and set at liberty.

My Edinburgh letters have made me acquainted with several professors of the university of this city. It is a much older institution than that of the metropolis, and is certainly very respectable, from the learning and high standing of its faculty, and the number of students that frequent it. The professors of moral and natural philosophy, spend much more time with their students, than do those of Edinburgh, subjecting them to a close examination, and obliging them to write exercises upon the subjects of the lectures; but the whole instruction in the university of Edinburgh, consists in the professors reading or pronouncing a lecture, without asking the students a single question; nor do the rules of the college even make it obligatory upon the students to attend. It certainly requires but little reflection or judgment, to determine which of those two plans of instruction is better fitted to the thorough initiation of boys into the principles of science. The university of Glasgow resembles, much more nearly, in its mode of instruction, the universities of England.

The museum, left to this college, by William Hunter, though less extensive than that of his brother John, in London, contains a rich and most valuable collection of natural history, of medals, books, original paintings, ancient manuscripts, and anatomical preparations. The latter probably includes one of the finest varieties of wet preparations, in Europe. The medals also are of such value, that the trustees of the British Museum, are said to have offered £25,000 for them, besides furnishing such duplicates as they possessed. But this liberal offer was declined.

Several of the manuscripts are in illuminated letter, and very rare. Among the curiosities of this collection, I observed an original letter of General Washington; but it is one of the least interesting, from the nature of its subject, of any of his letters that I have ever seen.

The zeal and industry of those two brothers, in bringing together such vast collections of objects, as are contained in the Hunterian museums of London and Glasgow, are truly astonishing. No two men, I should imagine, have ever done more, by their own manual exertions, to hasten the progress of natural science; nor are there many, to whose publications, anatomy and medicine are more deeply indebted. I have not learned, upon what terms William Hunter left this museum to his Alma Mater. They were doubtless very reasonable, and such as to cause his name to be cherished with enthusiasm by the university.

The buildings of this school make a very unostentatious and humble appearance. Viewed from the street, they remind one of some of the old alms houses in London, and it is only by entering the front gates, and passing from court to court, that one acquires any notion of its extent. It has four distinct courts, which communicate with each other. Behind is a large garden, with good walks, divided into three parts, one of which is a botanical garden; another is a place of recreation for the students; and the third, which contains the observatory, is reserved for the retirement and amusement of the professors, and their families and friends.

My valued friends, at H——m lodge, near London, have, without my knowledge, opened the way for a

kind and flattering invitation to —— house, the seat of R. Graham, Esq. in the environs of Glasgow. This gentleman is a brother of the author of the "Sabbath," well known to the readers of good poetry. He is at present, with his wife, on a visit in the south of England; but from his sons, I have received the most agreeable attentions. At their dinner table, I met professor M. and Dr. C. of the university.

30th. After breakfasting with *. *****, the post-master of Glasgow, whose conversation and manners, with those of his intelligent and agreeable family, gave me a high opinion of the society of this place, I attended a lecture of Dr. Thompson, so well known to chemists, as an author and editor. He is professor of chemistry in this university. His lecture was upon rocks, very clear and intelligible. An introduction to him, after the lecture, afforded me the assurance of his willingness to render me any service.

A letter from Dr. Hope, introduced me to C. M*****, a worthy man, and an enlightened manufacturer, whose chemical works are uncommonly extensive, and well conducted. He has a private laboratory, arranged with great judgment, in which he was engaged when I entered, in distilling iodine, chiefly, I believe, by way of amusement. In the manufactory were various processes conducted upon a large scale. *First*, of Ammonia, for the purpose of combining it with Archil, or rock moss, to form the substance called Cudbear, a purple dye of great value. In this operation, 3000 gallons of urine, are consumed per day. *Second*, Litharge, by the usual process of heating the lead, intensely, exposed to the air. *Third*, Vinegar, prepared from malt, or wort, by fermentation.

in rooms heated to 80° Fahrenheit, by hot air. When well acidified, it is mixed with lime, and the acetate of lime is afterwards decomposed by sulphuric acid. The strong vinegar, thus obtained, is combined in a large way with litharge, and sugar of lead is thus produced. The vinegar is also distilled for table use.

In this factory is a high steam boiler, in which the temperature of the steam is raised to 290°, under a pressure of 40 lbs. per square inch. This boiler had a very ingenious appendage, for supplying its waste, invented by — Taylor, of London. The high steam is applied to the heating of stills, to evaporations, &c. and, besides its superior neatness and safety, it affords the most economical employment of fuel. Half a hogshead of cold water, was made to boil in ten minutes, by the admission of this high steam into a pipe, which coiled round the bottom and sides of the tub.

A dinner at Professor M****'s, in company with three of the others, C****, M*****, and T*****, afforded an opportunity of becoming acquainted with men, who hold a conspicuous and important rank in that corps of learned instructors, which pours upon this nation such a flowing tide of profound and elegant knowledge, as to raise it to an equality with the most favoured portions of the globe. The cordiality and simplicity which distinguished the manners of our host, induced me to believe that the reputation with which he fills the chair of moral philosophy, must derive a lustre from a practical exhibition of the virtues which it is his province to elucidate.

Had I not been aware of the peculiar turn of one of the gentlemen present, it might have given me surprise, to hear a grave professor of a university in

Scotland, declare, that he never went to hear sermons, for he thought it a loss of time.

The faculty of the college consists of a Lord Chancellor, a Lord Rector, (both of which are honorary, the latter elected annually,) a Dean, a Principal, thirteen Professors, and six Lecturers. Five of these are appointed by the crown, and all the rest by the University.

The streets and shops of the city are lighted to a great extent with coal gas. The lecture-room of the professor of Experimental philosophy, whom I heard this evening, is illuminated from this source.

31st. My friend A. W****, accompanied me after breakfast, to the Forth and Clyde canal, by means of which the navigation of the German Ocean is connected with that of the Irish Channel. This canal is one of the finest specimens of canal engineering and execution, which the world can produce. No expense was spared to render it complete. It is sixty feet wide, eight and a half or nine feet deep, and thirty miles long. Large square-rigged vessels move upon it. Notwithstanding that its cost was enormous, it yields, as I have understood, a very good per centage on the original stock.

Among the mechanical curiosities of this city is a machine for *tambouring*, a species of embroidery, by which plain linen, muslin, or silk, is ornamented, by inserting into it, with needles and thread, figures of various kinds. One would almost as soon think of inventing a machine for drawing pictures on canvas, and yet the operation is here performed by a horse or steam power. The stuff to be tamboured, is stretched tightly on a frame, before the apparatus,

which moves the needles; and this, when thrown into gear, darts the needles and thread through with extreme velocity, and produces the figure. It has no slight resemblance to the American machine for making wool cards, invented by Whittemore, which, upon the whole, evinces, I think, as profound an inventive talent, as any mechanical contrivance that has yet been presented to my notice.

I visited next the gas manufactory for supplying the city with light. Much pains have been taken to erect these works upon the most judicious and eligible plan. The building in which the coal is decomposed is circular, neatly erected of brick. Fifty retorts of cast iron, each holding 120lbs. of coal, are adjusted around two circular chimneys, the flue of which is carried to a towering height, in order to convey the smoke and vapour above the town. Each retort has its own furnace, and is worked off in fourteen hours, producing, from each cwt. of coal, 450 cubic feet of gas. The cost of the coal here is one shilling per cwt. and that of the common coal for heating the retort is eight shillings and sixpence per ton. It requires fifteen men to attend to the management of twenty-five retorts, and five more for the gasometers, purifiers, &c. The gas descends into a circular channel, deposits its tar in a pit, and is further purified by passing through two large cast iron cylinders, placed in an inclined position, and containing diaphragms, which impede the motion of the gas through them. The lime solution is contained in a reservoir placed over these cylinders, and, gradually percolating through them, washes the gas thoroughly. It is agitated in its passage by instruments moved by a steam

engine of four horse power. There are two gasometers of 25,000 cubic feet each, and two others of equal capacity are to be erected. The gas enters these at *the top*, through cast iron tubes, turning on movable joints, which are kept tight by being immersed in water. There are two or three large gas holders in remote parts of the town, in order to save the necessity of increasing the main pipe. Twenty miles of pipe have already been laid down, although these works have been less than a year in operation.

The anatomical class, which I joined to-day in hearing a lecture from professor Jaffray, consisted of about 125 students. The preparations of the Hunterian museum, with which the table was covered, were very important in illustrating the subjects of the lecture. Five skeletons were dangling in mid air, from the ceiling of the lecture room; and upon a board which hung before the audience, was a strict prohibition against cutting the benches!

Glasgow, as well as Edinburgh, has witnessed a recent and rapid enlargement of its limits and population, and has greatly increased in elegance and wealth. In the older parts of the town, the buildings are ugly and inconvenient; and yet some of them, in the middle of the last century, were the residence of the opulent and the noble. Several streets and squares are now new and beautiful. About 800 houses, it is computed, are at present building within the limits of the city.

I dined at professor M***** with Dr. T*****, and several others. This university contains, in the whole, about 1400 students, of whom 350 are students of medicine. The terms of instruction, and probably

of board, are much lower here than in Edinburgh, in consequence of which, this school contains a greater proportion of young men, from the less wealthy classes of society. The faculty are not able to enforce the rule which requires the students to pay six shillings for the use of the library. In Edinburgh, they pay ten shillings cheerfully. The collegians of this university, in compliance, if I mistake not, with an ancient statute of the college, are distinguished by a coarse red cloak, in addition to their ordinary dress. It has an uncouth and unpleasant appearance, totally different from the collegiate dress of Oxford and Cambridge.

4th month, 1st. I had the satisfaction, this morning, of hearing a sermon from Dr. Chalmers, on a particular occasion. It was for the charitable purpose of promoting the education of the children of the Irish Roman Catholics, great numbers of whom flock into Glasgow, from the neighbouring kingdom. The meeting was to commence at eleven o'clock, and though it was on a week day, and at a business hour, the church was thronged long before the time of meeting. I had been apprized of the necessity of going early, and went accordingly half an hour before eleven; but so crowded was the house, I should scarcely have got inside the door, but for the kindness of a gentleman, whom I had met at dinner. With some difficulty he obtained a seat for me, on the hindermost bench. The sermon was from Eccles. iv. 13; and, if possible, it was delivered with more impassioned and fervid eloquence, than that which I before heard. The subject was of a nature to call forth his finest powers, for it opened to him a range of topics, on which his mind

and his pen had been much employed. The condition of the poor of Scotland, compared with those of England and Ireland; the effect of poor laws, and the forced maintenance of a populace, sunk in ignorance, on the one hand,—and of schools and domestic religion on the other; the efficacy of education, and moral instruction, as the surest means of diminishing the evils of poverty; and the universal and powerful obligations of Christianity,—furnished the materials for one of the most vivid and eloquent discourses I ever heard. It appeared to me highly creditable to the Tron church, and its minister, that this exertion should be made exclusively on behalf of the children of a sect, against which the national religion of Scotland, has so often manifested its vehement disapprobation. I could not but regard it, as one of the indications of a return of more lenient feelings, and charitable principles; and that too without any abatement of zeal for the growth and predominance of vital Christianity. On all such occasions as this, when money is to be collected, several of the most respectable of the congregation, place themselves at the doors, and present the basin to each person, on his exit from the church.

Dr. Chalmers' accent and pronunciation, are strikingly provincial; and yet, like his gesture, they seem to have peculiarities, derived from the character of his mind. He sounds the *u* like *oo*, in such words as *peculiar*; and the terminal *y*, as in *satisfy*, he sounds like *ee*. In the energy of his delivery, he sometimes swings his right arm, and then his left, as if aiming a blow at the desk, raising himself at the same time on his feet, with unusual emotion. But the minds of his hearers, follow him by such an irresistible influence,

into the spirit and meaning of his discourse, as to overlook all his defects of accent and gesture.

A dinner party at G*****'s, at which were one or two of the professors of the university, and several other very intelligent gentlemen, confirmed me in the opinion, that in the article of good eating and drinking, and the social good humour of the table, few people are greater adepts than the Scotch. I have seen yet almost nothing of their gruel, and oaten cakes; but it is evident that I have not taken the right course for it; and I regret the necessity of leaving Scotland, without going further into the north, among the lakes and mountains, and observing the peasantry, collected around their native "*wee bit inkles*," and listening, if possible by stealth, to the accents of the venerable *cotter*, as they flow from his family perusal of the *big ha' Bible*.

This reminds me of an anecdote respecting Burns, related to me by my present host. His father was invited by one of his neighbours, to meet the poet, on one of his early visits at Glasgow, while he was still a rustic at the plough. He went to breakfast, intending to stay but a short time, and not expecting much entertainment, from a man unaccustomed to the refinements of society, and unaided by education, excepting the display of a little mother wit, which, after serving for the amusement of an hour, he supposed would exhaust itself, or become monotonous. Burns was modest in his deportment, and diffident of himself. By degrees, however, he was drawn into conversation, and was persuaded to repeat some of his own native strains, and especially his *Tam O'Shanter*. Thus encouraged, his wit and humour were gradually elicited,

and so effectually did he charm his company, that it was three o'clock in the afternoon, before they left the breakfast table.

2d. I was gratified this morning in looking through another large manufactory of chemical substances, belonging to T*****, a very ingenious and successful operator. It comprehends, besides the finer kinds of soap, the chlorate of lime or bleaching powder, sulphuric acid upon a large scale, and sulphate of soda. The bleaching substance is obtained by transmitting chlorine gas into the dry hydrate of lime contained in casks or close vessels, stirring or agitating it during the operation by some mechanical means. In the concentration of sulphuric acid, this manufacturer employs five platina vessels, which cost each 400 guineas. The soda obtained from the sulphate is very finely prepared.

I went this morning through the Glasgow Bridewell and lunatic asylum. To the former I had the pleasure of being conducted, by two of a band of females, who visit this abode of guilt and misery for the purpose of administering to its devoted inmates the reproofs and consolations of the Gospel. Meeting these amiable persons in the street, I gladly accepted an invitation to accompany them. Their attention is confined, as in the case of the ladies' committee in Newgate, to the female prisoners; and indeed they have been prompted to this benevolent service by the advice and influence of Elizabeth Fry, who, in a late visit with her brother to the prisons of the north, had a meeting with the magistrates of Glasgow, and a number of ladies, and encouraged them to attempt the same kind of reform, and moral superintendence.

and instruction, which had proved so satisfactory in the metropolis. This advice was so much in unison with the feelings of her auditors, that the advice was kindly received and speedily acted upon.

The female prisoners are confined in cells, a range of which extends along each side of a narrow passage, each cell containing two prisoners. They are employed in spinning, and such other work, as the limited space in which they move will admit. The principal object of the committee is to promote moral reform. For this purpose the inmates of two or more cells are drawn together, and one of the committee reads a portion of the Scriptures, questioning them upon its contents, and enforcing its precepts and authority by suitable illustration and admonition. Though recently engaged in this service, and having to encounter all the difficulties of a new and untried sphere of duty, they are encouraged to perseverance by the consolatory evidences of awakened sensibility, on the part of many of the degraded objects of their care. In passing the door of one of the cells, I noticed the profound attention of the prisoners, to the expostulations of their amiable instructress. One of them was bathed in tears.

The keeper of this house of correction furnished me with the following statement from the books of his office. The daily average of prisoners during the last year was 210.

The whole disbursements of the house for	
the year was.....	£1873
And the whole amount of labour.....	1777
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Balance against the Bridewell.....	£96

The chief employment of the prisoners, male and female, is spinning linen yarn, weaving, tambouring and sowing, twisting and twining yarn, (which is the most productive,) winding and warping yarn, picking cotton, cutting corks, clipping muslin, tailoring, and picking oakum. From the year 1792 to 1817, one person has been 26 times committed, 3 have been committed 21 times, 10 persons 16 times, 28 persons 3 times, 35 persons 4 times, and 103 persons twice.

The Lunatic Asylum, was next the object of my inquiry. This is a superb building at a little distance from the town, on the north side. Its plan and erection, indicate an uncommon degree of ingenuity in the architect, and judgment in the committee who adopted the plan. The form of the entire building, is that of St. Andrew's cross. The main or central portion is an octagon, containing four large day rooms for the patients, and two rooms for the keeper, with a staircase and circular passage in the centre. From the four angular sides proceed the wings, three stories in height, in each of which there is a gallery, with convenient cells and rooms on one side. If an enlargement of the building should become requisite, the plan admits of the erection of wings, from each of the other sides of the octagon. This will leave eight triangular courts, and admit of great convenience for classification. All the courts are in full view of the windows of the superintendent and keepers, in the centre building. At the period of its erection, (10 or 12 years ago,) this asylum was without doubt, the most complete in its structure, and better adapted to its objects than any prior institution in Europe; and whether the more recent building at

Wakefield, is, in reality, much improvement on this, is a question which time and experience must decide.

The Glasgow asylum is in the centre of a circular area of three acres, which is surrounded by a wall. It contains now 100 patients, 60 male and 40 female, and appears to be in excellent order. The superintendent, W. Drury, is an intelligent and active man, and apparently master of his *profession*,—for is not the art of controlling, aweing, soothing, animating, comforting, and restoring, those who have suffered an alienation from the greatest of human blessings, the possession of a sound and well balanced mind, worthy of such a title?

The last annual report of the Directors, demonstrates the efficiency of the treatment here practised; and at the same time shows the importance of commencing the curative treatment of insanity at the earliest stage of its appearance. Of thirty cases mentioned in the report as old cases, four were cured, six relieved, and seven improved. Whereas, out of forty-eight recent cases admitted within the last year, twenty-four were cured, nine relieved, and four improved. Some of the patients become so much attached to the place where they have experienced such signal relief, that they are very reluctant to leave it, even after their perfect restoration. The terms in this asylum for the board and accommodation of patients, vary from eight shillings to two guineas per week. The number at the latter price, is greater than at any other. Improvement by moral treatment is the object most carefully aimed at. Among the sources of amusement, is a library and reading room for such of the patients as are able and

disposed to avail themselves of it. Instead of chaining those that are refractory, their hands and wrists are firmly fastened together, inside of a leathern cuff, which effectually prevents them from injuring themselves or others.

Among several particular cases described in the last report of the directors, is the following. "When a religious madman was loudly avowing and vindicating his intention to commit suicide the first opportunity, his hand was kindly taken, and, in a solemn tone, he was reminded of the awful consequences of such a deed, as 'no murderer hath eternal life:' on hearing this, his eyes, glaring with phrensy and despair, were turned towards the ground, he appeared absorbed in fixed thought, and made no more mention of suicide. Next day, warmly thanking the person who addressed him, he declared, with much emotion, that whenever the temptation recurred, which it often did, the text always came along with it, uniformly shielding him from its baneful effects, as it has now done for several years, that he has spent in the bosom of his family, whom he supports with steady industry."

In several cases of maniacal paroxysm, it has been found very beneficial to immerse the patient in a warm bath, while a stream of cold water is allowed to fall for some seconds on the naked head.

I joined a dinner party at the house of my friend A. W*****, composed of a number of philanthropic gentlemen, of whom Dr. Chalmers was one. He appeared rather languid, and confessed that he felt a little "Mondayish;" which, considering the effort he made yesterday, was not surprising. His friends

have just reason, I think, to apprehend the effects of so much earnestness and vehemence of delivery, on his bodily health. But so entirely are the feelings of the man, lost in the devotion and energies of the preacher, that their remonstrances have had but little effect in diminishing the ardour and energy of his action.

Dr. A. one of our company, some time ago, volunteered his services to government, on a voyage to New South Wales in a convict ship, for the purpose of instructing the poor wretches in moral and religious duties, and in some parts of useful learning. Such an instance of dedication to the cause of virtue, was truly admirable. He describes the depravity of some of the convicts, as surpassing what the imagination could readily conceive. A man was tried and executed for forgery; but his wife instead of profiting by such a lesson, secreted the plates which her husband had used, practised the same trade with the assistance of her children, and she and her son afterwards met at Botany Bay.

Glasgow and its neighbourhood, has recently been much disturbed by robberies; in consequence, it is believed, of the distress which prevails among the labouring classes. Of the indigent and miserable, there appears to be a much greater number here than in Edinburgh, owing probably, in some measure, to its more ready intercourse with Ireland. Dr. Chalmers is of opinion, that it is not expedient to prohibit mendicity too suddenly, in a population where it has long been practised, and especially in times of peculiar distress. But he would by all means, restrict the practice of begging, within certain definite limits.

He would suffer no person to go about begging, who was not licensed to do so, by some person duly authorised to grant the privilege, which privilege should be manifest by a badge on the arm, or other obvious mark. The privilege also, should be limited to a particular district, within which, the mendicant might become thoroughly known, and his case understood by all who supplied his wants. If he went beyond these prescribed limits, he should be taken up and treated as a vagabond. Impositions would thus be greatly prevented, while the real objects of charity would claim a greater share of sympathy and kindness. One of the gentlemen present, informed us, that in the particular district of the city which he had charge of, he had opened in different places Auxiliary Savings Banks, which had been attended with the happiest effects.

The streets of Glasgow certainly exhibit as noisy and disorderly a populace, as almost any place I have visited. The vicinity of the Tontine, since I have been here, has been the seat of many public brawls. These irregularities are, doubtless, to be ascribed to the great number of people that flock to this spot to obtain employment, either in the manufactories, the collieries, or along the river. But in no place, perhaps, is there more intelligence and enlightened zeal employed in the public good. Many of the evils are ascribed by Dr. C. and other judicious men, to the influence of the poor laws; but with how much reason, I cannot pretend to decide. In other parts of Scotland, where no such provisions exist, there is said to be an exemption from a large share of the poverty and consequent disorder which are here felt.

The river Clyde, which runs through the town, is a small stream, not navigable except for sloops and small craft, and these, in ordinary tides, can approach only the lower parts of the town. The number of steam-boats which now ply on this river, amounts to a score or more, affording such facilities of intercourse with Greenock and other places, as to have multiplied the number of travellers and passengers to a vast amount. That part of the town which faces the river on the south side, called Carlisle-Place, rivals in elegance almost any part of Edinburgh. The general plan of the city is remarkably regular, approaching in this respect, nearer to Philadelphia than almost any other town in Great Britain. The best buildings are of a fine free stone, found abundantly in the vicinity. The pavements are very firm and good. In this particular we have much to learn in America, the round stones there used for paving, are illy adapted to the object, being continually liable to dislocation, by the pressure as well as concussion of the wheels. The public buildings are not remarkable, except the old Gothic cathedral; the only one, if I mistake not, of these magnificent relicks of Catholic devotion, which the zeal of the Reformers suffered to remain in all Scotland. It is, therefore, quite a curiosity in the country; and having narrowly escaped destruction by that misguided feeling, which made no distinction between houses and principles, it is now viewed with no little interest and delight. It was founded in 1123, but was never completely finished. It bears a nearer resemblance to the cathedral at Litchfield than to any other English edifice. The spire is very lofty. It now accommodates two Presbyterian congregations.

The theatre in this town, though built at an expense of £15,000, does not succeed. It has been several times sold with great loss.

Glasgow is well supplied with water from the Clyde. This stream is generally turbid, but the defect is ingeniously remedied by filtration. The water passes through a bed of sand into a deep well, on the south side of the river. Into this well dips a flexible or jointed iron tube, of a very peculiar construction, invented by the celebrated James Watt.* He acknowledged that he derived his first idea of its form from observing the motion and figure of a lobster's tail. This tube crosses the river, lying upon its bottom, and giving no obstruction to the navigation. Three engines are employed on the other side of the river, viz. two of 36 inch cylinders, and one of 54 inches, which pump the water out of the well, and distribute it over the town.

3d. Being informed this morning of the unexpected departure of the steam-boat Rob Roy, for Belfast, I was induced to embrace the opportunity of making a short tour in Ireland; though with regret at leaving a place of so much attraction as Glasgow without spending a little more time in it. Nor could I, without a sacrifice of inclination to duty, consent to bid farewell to Scotland, on so short and limited a survey of her varied and beautiful scenery, and her extraordinary advances in arts, industry, wealth, and learning.

I hastily got ready, and embarked about 10 o'clock a. m. but the tide was so far spent, that the boat

* This truly great man died at his house at Heathfield, near Birmingham on August 25th, 1819, in the 84th year of his age.

grounded six miles below the town; where we were detained five hours,—hours far more tedious than any I have spent in this country,—for almost every hour since I entered Scotland, has supplied some agreeable information, or object of inquiry. But the steam-boat was pretty well furnished with books, some of which were recent publications,—a resource always sufficient to beguile the time. The Clyde flows through a rich and variegated country. The castle of Dumbarton, built upon an insulated rock in the river, is a bold and picturesque object. The river Leven here joins the Clyde, discharging into it the waters of Loch Lomond, six miles distant. Port Glasgow, a pretty little town, 22 miles below the city, was intended as a harbour for its ships, and was planned by the merchants for this purpose. It has a fine pier, but the superior advantages of Greenock will ever produce a rivalry that must prevent the growth of this new town. We passed the latter town before night. Its general appearance from the river is by no means inviting. The custom house is a sumptuous building, with large columns in front, and the wharves or quays of substantial stone work, look well, especially when contrasted with the logs of our own cities. The Clyde, opposite to Greenock, is about seven miles wide; and, as the tide rises here only twelve feet, there are but seventeen or eighteen feet water in the harbour, even at spring tides. Hence large ships are obliged to discharge part of their cargoes, before they can come into the port; but this is of little consequence when the goods are to be taken to Glasgow. Most of our passengers left us at Greenock, and among them, those of a steam-boat we

had passed upon the river, whose boiler had given out. These boats are much smaller, and in all respects inferior to those on the Hudson and Delaware. The Rob Roy has two compartments, a cabin and steerage. The fare to Belfast is a guinea in the cabin, (or a guinea and a half with a bed,) and fourteen shillings and sixpence in the steerage. We had nine cabin passengers, very few of whom chose to pay half a guinea for a bed, and therefore took their chances of sleep on the benches or floor. Indeed there were not more than half a dozen births for men, and a very small room for women.

The isle of Arran, and other scenery of the Frith of Clyde, were concealed by the shades of night.

4th. At 8 A. M. the Irish coast was in sight, and we had lost the view of that we had left. At 10 we entered the bay of Belfast, passed the castle and town of Carrickfergus, and approached Belfast about noon. The country on the bay is hilly, and appeared very populous; the fields were remarkably green, and the houses being mostly white, gave to the morning scene a chequered and animating aspect. A large ship rode at anchor in the bay, which, as we neared her, struck my fancy as the most beautiful in form and finish that I had seen in Europe; and I was about to give the highest credit to the Irish as ship-builders, when, on passing near her stern, the word "Philadelphia" undeceived me, and renewed my confidence in the skill and talent of my native land.

The part of the town that lies adjacent to the river, had a neglected and uncomfortable appearance. An excessive crowd was assembled about the wharves to witness the arrival of the steam-boat, which is still

so great a novelty, as to excite unbounded curiosity. There was certainly in this assemblage a much greater proportion of ragged and miserable objects than I had witnessed any where, except in some of the Italian villages. But the interior of the town agreeably disappointed me. It is almost wholly built of brick, plain, but neat; and the streets, it must be acknowledged, are cleaner than those of New-York. This indeed, is but negative praise; but I think there are not many towns in England preserved in more cleanly order, than are the principal streets and places of Belfast. The population is about 40,000. The houses are mostly four stories high, the first floor being nearly level with the street. The latter are wider than in English towns of equal date. Eight or ten families of Friends reside here, from some of whom, particularly those of T. and J. B***, I have met with much hospitality.

LETTER XXXVII.

Dublin, 4th month, (April) 10, 1818.

MY DEAR **** AND *****,

ON the 5th I breakfasted half a mile from the town, at the country residence of a Friend J. B***, very pleasantly situated, and improved with as much taste and attention to the comforts of life, as one would find in a place of similar rank in the south of England. The number and condition of the cottages of the poor in the vicinity of the town, sink, however.

in the scale of comparison. Street begging is not at present permitted. The poor are not supported by tax, but assisted by voluntary contributions. There is an alms-house on the border of the town, in which 350 are maintained, and not less than a thousand out-door poor receive assistance. The charities of Belfast must, of course, be bestowed with great liberality; and it appears to me that this mode of relief, unless managed with extreme caution, may become as blindly systematic as poor laws themselves, or even more so, and operate as unfavourably on the economy of the poor.

The fields are delightfully green, and the blossoms are just beginning to appear.

Intending to visit the northern coast, a friend introduced me to Dr. M-D*****, one of the principal physicians of the place, a man of science, ready intelligence, and philanthropy. He gave me much useful information and plain directions with respect to the route northward, and its most interesting objects. We went into the Lancasterian school, supported by subscription and donation for the benefit of the poor. It consisted of 500 boys and 250 girls, in a large and commodious building. The children were generally barefooted, and on leaving the school, I observed that they were also destitute of covering for their heads. Their clothing corresponded with these evidences of poverty. My young friend, W. B***, who takes an active part in these institutions, conducted me next to the penitentiary, or house of correction for vagrants and disorderly people. It contains thirty-two prisoners, one half of whom are women. They are employed in weaving,

and are subjected to a diet almost exclusively of potatoes and milk. The gaoler was very talkative, and self conceited.

The Linen Hall of Belfast is an appropriate ornament, not only to the town, but to the whole northern section of this great linen country. It is a large quadrangle, with a central hollow square. It contains a good library, and news room; thus combining literature with business, in a manner exceedingly creditable to the proprietors. The most valuable of the English and Scotch literary journals form a part of the *pabulum animi*, of these Irish Linen Drapers, demonstrating an improved and cultivated taste, and perhaps evincing their nearness to Scotland. Nothing can exceed the neatness and beauty with which the packages of linen are folded, and arranged in the various rooms of this extensive building. Great attention is paid to the external decoration of the pieces, such as tying them up in handsome strings or ribbands, stamping them with beautiful devices, and attaching the maker, or vender's name, engraved, and surrounded with an elegant vignette. These ornamental doings, I was told, are very expensive, but quite indispensable in the goods destined for the American market. Unless they look well, and have a beautiful gloss, they meet with a dull sale; the quality of the cloth having much less to do with the demand, than the superficial appearance. In England, the merchants and consumers have learned better; and no such expensive putting up is practised with the goods sent to the neighbouring markets. It is a fact which ought to be well understood by the consumers of linen, that the gloss or

glazing is produced by a violent mechanical friction and stamping upon the surface of the stuff, while it is firmly stretched over a hard unyielding substance. This is done by wooden beams, armed with smooth flint stones, and for no other purpose than to give it a beautiful appearance. It is nevertheless injurious to the cloth, abrading the surface and weakening its texture. It will not be long, I hope, before the corrected taste of American purchasers, will enable the Irish manufacturers to dispense with this useless and injurious process, for how perfect soever the glazing of linen may be, it all disappears in the first washing and shrinking, before the goods are made up into garments.

The desire to emigrate to America continues strongly to prevail; and the freight of this native live stock is a fertile source of gain to shipping merchants. The competition in these adventures is so great, that the price of a passage is reduced to £2, or even lower. But the abuses practised upon the ignorance of the lower order of emigrants are painful to humanity. I was informed, by a respectable merchant, that 400 passengers (including children) are sometimes crowded into a ship of 320 tons. The poor creatures listen with eagerness to any one who tells a favourable story of America, and thus blindly sacrifice their health and comfort in pursuit of the imaginary happiness and liberty they are to enjoy in the open fields and forests of the new world. These crowded masses are sent to the British dominions only, for such a degraded intercourse is not suffered with the United States, there being a stipulation to prevent such abuses.

At the invitation of Dr. M'D***** I went to a

meeting of the Literary Society of Belfast, held this evening at the house of Dr. K*****, one of the professors in the Literary Institution. The meetings are held periodically at the houses of the members in rotation, the host himself being chairman for the evening. About twelve members were present. Tea was handed round; after which a paper was read by one of the members, a teacher in the Institution. It consisted of a well written statement of the theory and principal phenomena of the tides of the ocean, much in the form of a popular lecture. Dr. K. as chairman, called upon each of the members, in succession, for their strictures upon the paper. Several of them, during the reading, took notes, and afterwards offered criticisms, and discussed the merits of the essay, with great candour and good feeling. A paper, I understand, is required at every meeting from some one of the members; but they are not confined to original observations. Such a regulation is certainly well adapted to extend and perfect the scientific knowledge of those concerned.

6th. The ground on which the town of Belfast is built belongs to the Marquis of Donegal. It is rented on long leases, renewable at the expiration of the term at the option of the lessee, agreeably to a determinate scale of rates. The Marquis resides at his seat, in the vicinity of the town. The income of his estate is about £60,000 per annum, but it is much involved in consequence of his adventures in early life, in that most disastrous of all sinking funds, the gaming table. It is now, I am told, in the hands of assignees, with a view of redeeming it from the effects of those early encroachments. He is allowed about one-fifth

of the whole income, for his annual expenses. This sum, nearly double the salary of the highest officer in the pay of our government, one would think sufficient for all the reasonable wants of the greatest lord in the land; but it is so often exceeded as to occasion, I am told, not unfrequently, the seizure of his carriage in the street, until some trifling debt is satisfied.

The “Academic Institution,” which I visited this morning, at the invitation of Dr. M-Knight, professor of chemistry, is a large and becoming structure, in a pleasant situation, and pretty well supplied with apparatus, both philosophical and chemical. The building cost £16,000, the amount of which was raised by subscription, a fact certainly very creditable to the liberality of the town. This enterprise was seconded by the government in a grant of £1500 a year, which placed the institution in a flourishing condition. But can it be believed that so serviceable and useful a grant as this could have been given upon any specific condition, or with reference to any terms of political submissiveness to the views of ministers? Yet I was informed, by persons of strict veracity, that this grant of £1500 was withheld, in consequence of a toast given by one of the inhabitants at a meeting on St. Patrick’s day, at which one of the ministers chose to take offence, and because a manager, who was present, did not leave the table. The toast, (which had reference to the condition of the emigrant Irish in the United States,) was simply this: “May the political exiles of Erin receive that protection under the Republican Eagle, which has been denied them under the paw of the Monarchical Lion.” If this be the naked fact, it is surely a deep reflection upon the

good sense and dignity of those who could thus wreak their private vengeance at the expense of youth and innocence, and the literary prosperity of one of the finest cities of Ireland. They offered afterwards to renew the grant, on condition of being allowed to have a share in the direction of the institution. This proposal the members are too independent to submit to; and, though the offending manager has withdrawn himself from the board, the institution is still left to struggle under the embarrassment occasioned by an insignificant and unwitting remark, made, probably, in a moment of excitement, over the wine of a dinner party.

At noon I took the coach for Colerain, for the purpose of viewing the northern coast. The country through which I rode was pleasant, and under good cultivation. The town of Antrim, though it gives name to the county, has a poor appearance, the greater part of it consisting of miserable, wretched huts, filled with ragged and barefooted children. Its situation in the vicinity of Lough Neagh is very fine. There is much boggy land in this waste, and the piles of turf, used for fuel, make a conspicuous figure as one travels the road. We passed the site of Shane's Castle, the seat of Lord O'Neil, which was burned a few years ago. In the little town of Ballymena we stopped to dinner. It was much such a repast, and served up nearly in the same way as a traveller would meet with on one of the stage roads of New-Jersey or Connecticut, and the price demanded was also much the same, namely, three shillings, Irish. A rosy-faced girl, neatly dressed, and apparently the daughter of some respectable citizen of Ballymena, got into the

coach and rode some distance, affording me the only inside company I have had during the day. There have been several outside passengers, but as the weather is rather unpleasantly cool, I did not think it best to venture on the top. My fair companion appeared sociable, and much disposed to answer my inquiries with politeness. "Are the people in this neighbourhood," said I, "mostly Protestants, or Catholics?" "Indade, sir," said she, "but they're just mixed together." In adverting to the great number of children we saw before the cottages, I asked her if it was common here to marry young. "Yes, indeed," she replied, "the lower classes do, and that accounts very well, you know, for the great population of Ireland. The union," she said, "is considered here as injurious to the country. The nobility sweep up all the money they can, and just spend it in England."

We arrived at Colerain at 10, and obtained pretty good quarters at the stage inn. At the supper table I found that an English gentleman, who had rode from Belfast on the outside, was bound, like myself, to the Giant's Causeway; and we concluded to take a post-chaise early in the morning, and, if practicable, return in the evening.

7th. The postmaster of Colerain, on whom I called last evening, relative to the road, invited me to breakfast, and frankly gave me all the information I desired. Our first direction was to Portrush, a village situated on a small but romantic peninsula upon the northern coast. It is a port of entry, and occasionally clears out a vessel for America. The revenue officer, M·N*****, to whom I was verbally recommended by Dr. M·D*****, readily took my word for it, con-

ducted us to his house, seated myself and companion by his wife at the breakfast table, and entered with such warmth into my wishes as to give me the most favourable impression of Irish hospitality. He took us on the rocks, led us to the brink of yawning precipices, and related the adventures of unfortunate mariners who had been shipwrecked on these rocks. From his sensible and judicious remarks, I obtained much useful and interesting information relative to this remarkable region. His wife and daughter produced, for my amusement, their store of shells, and supplied me with several curious varieties. His wife informed me that she had lived in almost all parts of Ireland, having changed her place of residence twenty-seven times.

We stopped, on our way to the Causeway, to view the ruins of the castle of Dunluce. The appearance of this castle, and its singularly romantic situation, combine to render it one of the most impressive objects of antiquity that has fallen in my route. Its position is on an isolated rock, which projects into the sea, and is separated from the main by a deep chasm: over this chasm is a narrow wall, which furnishes the only means of approach to the castle. There was formerly another similar wall at a short distance from this, parallel to it, so that by laying boards over them a bridge might be expeditiously formed for the passage of the garrison.

The Castle is built of columnar basalt, many joints of which are so placed as to show their polygonal sections. The walls are very thick; the rooms small, and some of them in distinct preservation, though the edifice is in a state of majestic dilapida-

tion. The rock on which it stands appears to have been separated from the main land by a convulsion of the earth, and also to have been perforated entirely through at the bottom, forming a cavern which extends from the shore quite through the rock to the sea, resembling, in some respects, the Napoleon galleries, in the route over the Simplon.

The solemn roar of the waves as they rush through this cavern, and the thick winnows of foam and seaweed collected in it, heightened the picture which the imagination was prone to form of the uses to which this huge pile must have been applied in centuries past, when this castle was the residence of chivalrous bravery, and one of the strongest fastnesses of those neighbouring chieftains, whose conterminous empires had no other security than the number, fidelity, and hardihood of their dependants. There is, I understand, much obscurity resting upon the history of this castle; but from the contents of a manuscript cited by Dr. Hamilton, in his account of Antrim, it appeared to have belonged originally to an Irish chief called M'Quillan, who, from an excess of hospitality towards a Colonel M'Donald, who came from Scotland in the year 1580, to assist Tyrconnell against great O'Neil, invited him to make the castle his winter quarters, and to board his highlanders among the tenantry of the domain. M'Donald gladly accepted the offer; but in the course of the winter he seduced M'Quillan's daughter, and privately married her. A quarrel too arose between a highlander and one of M'Quillan's militia, or Gallogloghs, in which the latter was killed. This so incensed the Irish, that in a council which they held, it was resolved that each

Galloglogh should kill his Highlander by night, and their lord and master with them: but M'Donald's wife discovered the plot, and told it to her husband. The Highlanders, therefore, took the alarm and fled in the night time to the island of Raghery, situated just off the coast. This island not being inhabited, they were obliged, it is said, to feed on colts' flesh. But from this time, the M'Donalds and M'Quillans entered on a war, and continued in occasional acts of hostility, during the remainder of the century. The authority of the English over Ireland, in the reign of James I. proved adverse to M'Quillan. The king favoured his countryman M'Donald, and poor M'Quillan became so greatly reduced, that his name and authority were eventually lost.*

On our way to the Giant's Causeway, we stopped at the village of Bushmills, about two miles distant from it, and procured a guide.

The coast from Port Rush westward, for many miles, is extremely precipitous, sometimes presenting an abrupt and almost perpendicular declivity of several hundred feet. On approaching the spot which attracts so many foreigners, and respecting which so much has been said and written, I found that my preconceived notions of it, were much at variance with truth, and that I had formed no just conception of its actual features. It had always presented itself to my imagination, as an elevated pile of basaltic rocks, which extended a mile or two into the sea, and on the top of which a carriage might drive directly from the shore for a considerable distance, or until the surface became too rough and too much sunk for its

* V. Hamilton's Letters on the County of Antrim.

further progress. Such was the expectation which seemed naturally to associate with the idea of a causeway. My surprise, therefore, was great, on finding, that in order to tread upon the Giants' Causeway, or even to obtain a view of it, it was necessary to descend a steep and lofty hill, by an artificial road, which winds irregularly from the height of the table land to the sea shore, and which is altogether impassable for carriages. In our progress, the guide (John Currie) conducted us to the cave of Portcoon, a very large and extended cavern in the side of the rocky barrier, and into which the surf of the ocean plunges with loud detonations, and leaves behind it vast piles of foam, as light as gossamer. This cave penetrates the rock to the depth, I believe, of nearly 200 feet. When we had fairly entered it, two guns were fired at the same moment, by a couple of boys who had followed us for that purpose. The noise and reverberation were almost deafening. A carriage road was made more than twenty years ago, by the bishop of Derry, to the very edge of the causeway, but it has been suffered to get quite out of repair. The owner of the land built a wall to intercept the approach of strangers, and erected a house near it, intending to exact a fee for the privilege of seeing the causeway,—but the county defeated him, by laying a public road through his wall to the causeway.

Arrived at the famous spot, it presents a curious and picturesque, rather than a sublime object of contemplation. The whole coast in this region, is basaltic, a formation which extends to the western islands, and forms the predominant rock in many parts of Scotland. This rock, it is well known, has

a remarkable tendency, at the period of its aggregation, to arrange itself in enormous crystalline masses, consisting of prismatic blocks of various lengths, from a few inches, to twenty, thirty, or more feet; and differing equally in thickness.

The causeway consists entirely of these prismatic blocks, placed one upon another so as to form columns, all the blocks belonging to the same column being of the same shape and thickness, and each of them being a little convex at the lower end and concave at the upper, so as to fit exactly to each other, leaving a joint, which is indeed very perceptible, but too close for the water to penetrate. The convexity and concavity do not extend to the extreme edge of the pillars, there being in general a flat portion round each end. Each pair of contiguous blocks, is likewise fastened together by a remarkable, natural ligature. A tongue or projection of considerable thickness, ascends from one angle of the lower block and is fastened to the upper, appearing to form a part of the crystalline substance of each block; but upon being struck with a heavy hammer, these connecting pieces readily separate from the blocks, and it is easy to perceive that they are not integral portions of the prisms, but have been merely applied very closely in contact, except at one point, which is the base of the spar. These jointed columns of basalt are mostly erect, but in some instances inclined.

The most surprising feature of this great mass of columns, is their exact conformation, and the wonderful precision with which they are compacted together. It is computed that there are in the whole causeway about 30,000 pillars, standing nearly per-

pendicular to the horizon, and so nicely adjusted to each other, that the tops throughout a great extent, resemble a tessellated pavement. There is, however, a good deal of irregularity of surface, the columns in some spots rising above the general level. On the eastern side there is one remarkable range, called the Giants' Loom, in which the tallest of the pillars is 33 feet high, exhibiting about the same number of visible joints, of two feet in diameter. But the diameters of the pillars throughout the causeway, vary from fifteen to twenty-six inches.

The number of sides of these articulated prisms, varies from three to nine. There is, however, in the whole extent of the causeway, but *one triangular pillar*, and *but three of nine sides*. The total number, too, of pillars of four and eight sides, bears but a small proportion to the whole mass; of which it may be safely computed that ninety-nine out of an hundred have either five, six, or seven sides; and of these the hexagonal columns are by far the most numerous. The length of the joints varies from four inches to four feet.

In order that space should be entirely filled up by the union of polygonal columns, whose sides are equilateral it is easy for the geometrician to demonstrate that no description of figures would answer, except squares and hexagons. One part of the causeway is appropriately called the honey-comb, from its consisting like the cells of the bee, of six-sided figures; —but to compensate for this want of regularity in the number of sides of the general mass, the diameters of different pillars, and the sides of the same pillar are of various dimensions; and it will soon be observed, that the contiguous sides of the seve-

ral pillars, are almost always of equal dimensions. In the few instances in which this is not the case, one side is always coincident and coextensive with two opposite ones, and in no case does the angle of one pillar enter into, or indent the side of an adjoining one.

The extent of the grand causeway from the gateway at the south end, to the more northeasterly point left bare by neap tides is 660 feet, and its width is 405 feet. The depth to which the pillars descend has not been ascertained, nor is it known how far they reach under the waters of the ocean. The whole mass of pillars which form this great natural curiosity is divided into three distinct parts, or moles, called the little, the middle, and the grand causeway. These parts are separated by whyn-dykes, a kind of wall formed of small triangular basaltic prisms, arranged horizontally. There are ten or a dozen of these curious walls in the vicinity of the causeway, which extend from the cliffs into the sea. A fine spring of fresh water rises in the midst of the causeway, the water of which flows in a limpid current over three hexagonal blocks.

The stratum of the causeway rests upon a bed of red ochre. There are indeed strata of basaltes beneath the red ochre, but none of a columnar figure.

Under the term basalt many mineralogists comprehend those varieties which are called Trap, Whinstone, and Greenstone. These, however, are of a coarser texture, and contain very commonly cavities or nodules of some other minerals. Zeolite and chalcedony are found in fine variety at this place.

To the east of the causeway is a beautiful colonnade of basaltic pillars, which is known to form part of the same stratum. It consists of about fifty columns, the middle ones being forty feet in length, and the rest diminishing gradually to the end. It is called the organ, from its resemblance to the pipes of that instrument.

But this majestic arrangement of columnar basalt is by no means confined to this immediate neighbourhood. About a mile to the eastward is a cape called Pleaskin, which presents a remarkable and magnificent view of the same symmetrical structure. It is a high and prominent headland, around the base of which are strewn, in vast irregular heaps, fragments of rocks that have tumbled from the cliffs above. Over these enormous masses of *debris*, are two strata of perpendicular pillars, one above the other, with a thick intervening bed of irregular or amorphous trap. These beautiful colonnades are precisely similar in texture and structure to the causeway, and are, in fact, only a more elevated part of the same formation. Over the upper row of these columns is a thin bed of irregular basalt, and on that, a light covering of earth, which forms the upper surface of this bold and majestic cape. The coast for many miles eastward, exhibits, I was informed, the same precipitous and romantic character, with a frequent occurrence of basaltic stratification. There is so much iron, it is said, in the composition of the basalt of these columns, as to render it magnetic; and in consequence of their upright position, they possess a decided polarity.

Can it be a matter of surprise, that to the untutored fishermen of this part of the island, an assemblage of rocks, adjusted to each other with such wonderful precision, as are those of the causeway, and advancing directly from the promontory into the sea, and stretching toward the western islands, should have been regarded as the work of art? It would indeed require a vast accumulation of strength to execute such a piece of work by human hands. But among a people whose imaginations were prone to supply what their experience could not enable them to realize, it was easy to find a substitute for their own deficient strength, in such an undertaking as this. The traditions of the country came to their aid; and Fin M-Cool, the celebrated hero of ancient Ireland, became the giant, under whose forming hand this curious structure was erected. The discovery that a pile of similar pillars existed somewhere on the western coast of Scotland, would naturally enough give countenance to the rude idea, that this mole had once formed a connection between the opposite shores; and thus it was, that this remarkable projection acquired the name of Giant's Causeway.

The island of Raghery, which lies six or seven miles from the northern coast, contains likewise some curious arrangements of basalt. This island is about five miles in length, and three quarters of a mile in breadth. It supports about 1200 inhabitants; a surprising population for its small extent and bleak exposure. They are said to be a simple, laborious, and honest race of people, and possessing a remarkable attachment to their island. In conversation they always talk of Ireland as a foreign kingdom.

and have, in reality, scarcely any intercourse with it, except in the way of trade. A common and heavy curse among them is,—“May Ireland be your hinder end.” They never attempt to better their fortunes by settling in the neighbouring towns of Antrim. An important source of gain to them is the manufacture of kelp from the sea-weeds which they gather from the rocks at low water. This business is conducted by women and children while the men are employed in fishing, agriculture, or hunting the nests of sea-fowls among the crags and precipices. The whole annual rent of the island is £600; and the sales of their kelp alone, which is purchased by the bleachers of the north of Ireland, has amounted to more than £525.

No quadrupeds are found on this island, except rats and mice. Neither foxes, hares, rabbits, badgers, &c. which abound on the neighbouring shore, were there known, until hares were introduced by the proprietor. Litigation is said to be little known in Raghery. The inhabitants speak of their landlord by the name of master, and the simplicity of their manners is such as to render the interference of the civil magistrate unnecessary. The seizure of a cow or horse for a few days, to bring the defaulter to a sense of duty,—or, in criminal cases, a copious draught of salt water, form the chief penalties of the island. If the offender become irreclaimable, banishment to Ireland is the dernier resort, and soon frees the community of its unworthy member. The Irish language chiefly prevails in the island. Robert Bruce was once obliged to take shelter in Raghery, and the remains of a fortress are yet visible, which

was celebrated for the defence which it afforded to that renowned hero of Scotland.*

One little bay in the vicinity of the causeway is called *Porto na Spania*, from the circumstance of its having occasioned the shipwreck of one of the Spanish armada, which, mistaking the basaltic pillars of that spot, for the towers of Dunluce castle, approached so near for the purpose of bombarding it, as to run on the rocks. Some remains of the wreck, it is said, still exist, as well as of the bones of those who perished.

The underlying stratum of the whole northern coast of Antrim, appears to be limestone or chalk. This substance makes its appearance in various places, rising occasionally into cliffs, and then sinking entirely out of sight, yielding, as it were, to the incumbent pressure of the basaltic strata which rest upon it. At the promontory of Bengore, which abounds in every part with pillars of basalt, the chalk is completely lost for three miles. This alternation of chalky cliffs and basaltic promontories, gives to the whole district of this coast, a geological character of the deepest interest. The abruptness and nakedness of the precipices expose to view, with great distinctness, the various strata which they contain; and it is soon perceived that the deeper the pillars of basalt descend, the more perfect is their prismatic form and arrangement. The material of these columns is pretty easily distinguished as a mineral from every other. Its colour is a dark iron gray, its texture is fine grained, of a crystalline appearance, and it is sufficiently hard to strike fire with steel. It is susceptible of a good

* Hamilton's letters.

polish, and is free from laminæ or fissures, and has no tendency to split or break in one direction rather than another. When exposed to a high heat it undergoes complete fusion, and forms a black glass; and the admirable experiments of Sir James Hall and G. Watt have shown that, when melted into a glass, it will, by slow cooling, resume the stony structure. The quantity of iron which enters into its composition, varies, according to different chemists, from 8 to 25 per cent. Siliceous and argillaceous earths constitute its principal mass. Its unyielding and durable nature is evinced by the very slight appearance of decomposition, notwithstanding the great exposure of the causeway to the continual action of a boisterous ocean, and a humid climate. The external surface becomes a little blackened, but the form and junction of the pillars are probably as perfect now, as they were a thousand years ago. The more elevated columns of Pleaskin, and the neighbouring coast, are indeed occasionally dislodged from their height, by the crumbling nature of the slaty basis on which they rest, and fall with tremendous force into the ocean. The congelation of water which finds its way into the fissures of the mass, doubtless accelerates the progress of destruction.

Ochres of several colours, prevail amid the basaltic beds, both on the coast, and in different parts of the country. Hematites, various kinds of clay, steatites, petrosilex, chalcedony, gypsum, and zeolite, are also found among the coarser basalt. From the shivered fragments, too, of the harder portions, a gritty powder results, which resembles the puzzolana or terras of volcanic countries. The soil of this part

of the county, which results from the destruction of these harsh materials, is unkind and sterile, but is greatly improved by the use of lime.

White lime-stone, of a peculiar character, emerges from the superincumbent basalt, in various places. It has the appearance of indurated chalk, and is found in several parts of the county. It contains nodules of dark flint, and is found enclosing a number of marine reliquia, particularly belemnites, asteriæ, and pectenites. The lime-stone, in the immediate vicinity of the basalt, is more soft and friable than in situations more remote; and the strata, in these cases, which appear to have been in their primitive position horizontal, are found much confused and displaced. Beneath the perfect pillars, they seem to have vanished altogether.*

It is well known that the advocates of the volcanic theory of the earth, derive their strongest arguments from the composition, structure, relative position, and accompaniments of basaltic rocks. These furnish the sheet-anchor of the igneous theory. And, as far as my very limited observations in this region enable me to judge, I should conclude that actual appearances lend no small support to the opinion that fire has been an agent in these formations. That it has been the entire solvent of basalt, and the only cause of the columnar structure and arrangement, I should by no means contend. Much of the controversy between Neptunists and Volcanists, has long appeared to me to be idle and fruitless. When we know that either aqueous or igneous solution may be adequate to the production of most, if not all, of the crystalline forms observ-

* Hamilton's letters.

able among rocks, it seems to me to argue little else than a blind adherence to a favourite hypothesis, to exclude entirely from the primitive agency of their formation, either of those powers, which we know are still operative in the changes which are going forward in different parts of the earth. Geologists, indeed, have very much given up the race of speculation, and wisely devote their attention to the observance of facts.

Coal is dug from the sides of the precipice near the causeway, in moderate quantity, and is used by the neighbouring cottagers for fuel. It does not appear to be a complete fossil, but rather to owe its carbonized form and consistency, to the partial agency of fire, or that of sulphuric acid.

At Ballycastle, about two miles from the causeway, are coal mines which have been wrought to a considerable extent. In the year 1770, the miners, in pushing forward an adit toward the bed of coal, at an explored part of the cliff, unexpectedly broke through the rock into a narrow passage, so much contracted and choked up, as to render it impossible for the workmen to force themselves through, to examine it further. Two lads were therefore made to creep in with candles, to explore the cavern. They pressed forward, but going too far, their candles became extinct, and they were totally unable to find their way back. Alarmed for their safety, fresh hands were collected, and by working incessantly, in the course of twenty-four hours the passage was opened, so as to admit some of the most active among the miners. The lads were found in a distant chamber of the cavern; and on searching this subterranean wonder, it

was ascertained to be a complete gallery, which had been driven forward many hundred yards to the bed of coal, and that it branched off into numerous chambers, where miners had carried on their different works. In short it was an extensive mine, wrought by people as expert in the business as the present generation. Some remains of the tools, and even of the baskets used in the works, were discovered, but so decayed that on being touched, they immediately crumbled to pieces. That this mine is of great antiquity, is evident from the fact that there does not remain the most remote tradition of it in the country. The sides and pillars too, of the mine, were found covered with sparry incrustations, which indicate a very long period of repose. The inhabitants of the place attribute this work to the Danes; but these people were never in quiet and undisturbed possession of Ireland. In short, not only this ancient mine, but various other vestiges of the arts, lead to the conclusion, that there was an age, antecedent to all written or traditionary history, when Ireland enjoyed a very considerable share of civilization. From recorded evidence it appears certain, that this mine could not have been wrought at any period subsequent to the reign of Elizabeth; that is, later than 1602; and it would be very difficult to find, in the annals of Ireland, during the preceding ages, any moment of time at which either the means or necessity of the kingdom, could have admitted of such works, until we get beyond the turbulent chaos of events which succeeded the eighth century.*

On leaving the causeway, I clambered up the pre-

* Hamilton's Antrim.

precipice, by a winding and very steep path, and not without difficulty and danger, especially as the ground was rendered slippery by a shower. My fears in this ascent, were not diminished by a story which one of the men related, of an incident that occurred some years ago in this vicinity.* An honest and clever labourer, whose name was Adam Morning, cultivated a very small farm adjoining the precipice, and held, by the tenure of his land, about twenty or thirty square yards of barren rock, on the margin of the water. Here he and his wife often resorted to collect seaweed, which they converted into kelp, and sold to the neighbouring bleachers. Their struggles to maintain a livelihood on their little farm, had for several years been scarcely sufficient to preserve them above want, in consequence of unfavourable seasons. They were one day engaged in gathering sea weed, and had been talking cheerfully on the revival of their hopes, from the appearance of a more promising harvest, when, to save time, Adam ascended to the cottage to eat his own dinner, and to bring her accustomed scanty meal to his wife. He had been gone some time, when his wife heard a slight noise among the rocks above, and looking up saw something dark, which she supposed to be a black sheep, that had slipped and fallen in descending the precipice. She went on with her work, but her husband staying longer than she expected, her fears were excited, and she thought best to examine more particularly into the cause of the sound she had heard. On ascending to the place, judge of her feelings, when she found that the black object she had seen, was her poor husband.

* Also stated in Hamilton's letters.

who, in his anxiety to rejoin his companion, had slipped and tumbled headlong among the rocks, and lay lifeless on the spot. The afflicted woman strove in vain to carry his body up the hill. She was obliged to leave him, and seek the assistance of her neighbours, who promptly afforded her all the aid in their power, in so melancholy a catastrophe. It is not very uncommon for cattle, as they are grazing above, to fall down the hill, and injure themselves. I saw a cow which had fallen twice, and knocked one of her horns off each time.

The view of the coast from the precipice which overlooks the causeway, presents a series of objects on which the eye delights to dwell. In no part of the world, perhaps, is the wild sublimity of nature subjected by nature herself to an appearance which so much resembles art ; thus contrasting her most fantastic and magnificent forms, with the symmetry and beauty which are found in those minute and delicate productions which are so much admired in our cabinets and museums of natural history.

The coast further westward, I am informed, becomes still more bold and romantic. At Fairhead, a promontory about eight miles from the causeway, the rocks raise their lofty summits more than 500 feet above the sea ; and the columnar masses at this place exceed 200 feet in length.

We stopped at the cottage of a labourer, who had just recovered from an injury, received as he was procuring coal for fuel, on the side of a hill which overhangs the causeway. A stone from above fell upon his head, and knocked him down the precipice. He was taken home apparently lifeless ; but a surgeon

was speedily procured, who, as the man himself informed me, took seventeen pieces of fractured bone from his skull, and by a course of judicious treatment, restored him to perfect health. This man has a wife and three children. Their mud cottage, covered with straw, consisted of two apartments, one of which served as a place of lumber, or outer kitchen, and the other as the common dwelling. The floors of both were the naked earth, worn into numerous unevennesses. A bed of tolerably decent appearance, a few old chairs, a table, and a chest were the furniture of the inner chamber, while the anti-chamber was graced with a spinning-wheel, and a few kitchen utensils. This man, however, was considered as above mediocrity in point of comfort and good living.

The village of Bushmills consists almost entirely of mud houses with thatched roofs. We were furnished, nevertheless, at Gamble's inn, with a dinner of fine fresh salmon, roast pork, butter, potatoes, and cheese, for two shillings and two-pence each. The northern coast is famous for salmon. The river Bann, which passes through Colerain, and conveys the waters of Lough Neagh to the ocean, is probably unrivalled in the plenteousness of this kind of fishery. The muscular vigour which this remarkable fish exerts in ascending the rapids and falls of this and other streams, is one of the most singular facts in ichthyology.

8th. Colerain appears to be very agreeably situated on the Bann, and is noted for its linen manufacture. But not wishing to remain there, I took the coach at half past ten last evening, and reached Belfast this morning to breakfast. My young friend B. and his sister,

in a morning excursion on horseback, met me on the road, and kindly escorted me home.

After a few calls, and an early dinner, I proceeded, under the auspices of two friends, to Lisburn, a pleasant town, seven miles from Belfast. The principal object of curiosity here is Coulston's manufactory of damask table cloths, into which we had no difficulty in gaining admittance. It belongs to four brothers, all unmarried men, and is unquestionably the most extensive and perfect factory of this kind in Europe. It occupies about eighty looms, and two hundred people. The diversity of the figures, and the elegance and precision with which they are wrought by the loom into the body of the cloth, and distinguished by a colour varying so little from that which surrounds it, render this species of art one of the most ingenious and delicate which the loom affords. The adjustment of the threads, preparatory to the weaving, so as to mark out each contour of the figure is a special part of the art. It is managed by a man and a boy, the former giving vocal directions to the latter, which, to an unpractised ear, sets all gibberish at defiance, and can hardly fail to excite the risibility of strangers. It is perfectly intelligible, however, to the boy, who follows the directions with his fingers with astonishing agility. They showed me the American coat of arms, and other devices, on cloths intended for the United States market. Some of the articles designed for the Prince Regent were singularly fine and beautiful. I could not but regret that the proprietors should deem it necessary to confine their workmen in such low, confined, and crowded rooms, with no floor but the earth, damp and unventilated.

The plea is, that dampness is essential to the operation of the looms; but I cannot but believe that this object might be obtained without so great an exposure of the health of the labourer. A more comfortable arrangement of rooms would doubtless be more costly; but why should the profits of a few be put in opposition to the health and lives of many? I have nowhere in England, or even on the continent, seen such an apparent destitution of comfort among the labourers of a manufactory. The price of a tablecloth, four yards and a half long, and three yards wide, is here about £3 sterling.

We had time before dark to visit a boarding-school at Prospect-Hill, a short walk from Lisburn. It is an institution belonging to the Society of Friends, devoted to the education of the children of such of its members as are not in circumstances to pay a full price for their instruction and maintenance. As the management of this school affords an instance of Irish economy, I may be allowed to mention some of the particulars of its expenditure and income. It is under the superintendence of a respectable man and his wife, who employ such instructors as the school may require. It contains at present 46 scholars, viz. 21 boys, and 25 girls. The cost of each to the parents for board, clothing, and instruction is but £4 Irish, per annum; but, to the institution, the whole expense of their maintenance is £16 10s. The deficiency of £12 10s. is partly derived from the farm, and the rest supplied by the funds of the society. The farm consists of twenty acres of land, and from this is obtained more milk and butter, and as much wheat as is sufficient for the whole institution. Of

oats, potatoes, and meal, it does not afford quite enough for the whole consumption. The breakfast of the children consists uniformly of a hasty-pudding of oatmeal, (which they call *stir-about*) and milk; and their supper, with few exceptions, of potatoes and milk. Two days in the week they have for dinner boiled beef and soup, thickened with barley, potatoes, and other vegetables; twice they dine on potatoes, butter and milk; once on soup, butter and potatoes; once on bread and soup; and once on cold meat stewed, with potatoes. Three times in a week the children have a piece of bread given them at four in the afternoon. They appeared very healthy, and the physician, I was told, has paid no visits for two years. The beds are made of straw, which is frequently changed, and kept perfectly clean. The potatoes are cooked by steam. The scholars are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and some geography; and the females learn to sew, mark, and knit. In the course of the last year the work done by the female pupils amounted to £7, over that which was requisite for the house. I know of no instance, in which good instruction, sufficient for the ordinary duties of a mechanical, agricultural, or even mercantile profession, is obtained at a cheaper rate.

9th. An intelligent friend, J. R***** , at whose house I was kindly entertained last night, brought me this morning in his jaunting car to Lurgan, a town about a mile from the south end of Lough Neagh. The country appeared to be very fertile, but the cottages of the peasantry are very poor; many of them, miserable hovels of mud, with the most deplorable appearances of wretchedness. One small door is the

only place of exit, both for the family and the smoke of the turf fire. The walls around the door, on the outside, are blackened with it; no floor but the bare earth, and nothing to sleep on but a little straw; and even this is often the common property of the younger inhabitants and the pigs, which seem, from the freedom with which they go in and out, to form a part of the family. The children, which are seen in sufficient numbers around these hovels, are almost naked, and yet their countenances wear the bloom of health. They become so accustomed to smoke and dirt, that they acquire an habitual indifference to its appearance and effects, and will make no exertion themselves to live in greater decency and comfort, when it is in their power.

The degrading effects of long continued oppression upon the minds and character of men; and of men, too, naturally high-minded, generous, and easily susceptible of all the finer impulses of our nature, are probably no where more manifest than in the Irish peasantry. My friend informed me that a spirited landholder in this neighbourhood, on coming into his estate, was resolved that his tenants should not exhibit such a picture of wretchedness as is usually seen; and he accordingly erected decent stone cottages, with wooden floors, glass windows, good chimnies, and strictly enjoined it on his tenants to keep them clean. But he found it in vain to attempt to change their habits. The hogs were suffered to come in and out; and his cottages, though more respectable exteriorly, were soon upon a level with those of his neighbours in their interior appearance. There is an evident repugnance in these poor people to live

in a style of greater neatness than their acquaintance, for it subjects them to remarks and observations of an unfriendly character among their equals.

We stopped in our ride at the door of a female friend, who tenanted a cottage of a larger and more respectable size than ordinary. I remarked, as usual, that the floor was the bare ground, and expressed regret at the poverty which it indicated. My companion told me that this person must be worth at least £3000, and, of course, that it was by no means her poverty which prevented her from putting a wooden floor in her house, but the fear of incurring the imputation of pride, among those whom it was her interest to stand well with.

It is universally admitted, however, that the condition of the peasantry in this part of the island is much better than in the south. The farms in the north are generally very small, varying from ten to twenty acres. The tenants are manufacturers, or pursue some trade in addition to the farm, particularly weaving. In the south, the labourers are more uniformly Catholics, and the resources of the loom are comparatively rare.

The superior moisture of the climate requires a tillage different from that which is practised in the United States. The land is ploughed into ridges of about five feet in breadth, harrowed, sown with the grain, and again harrowed. The space between the ridges is then trenched with a spade, or shovel, the earth being scattered over the grain. The trenches are made so deep as to extend a little below the soil, and the clay, thus raised, and thrown on the ridges,

becomes converted into mould, and gradually contributes to deepen and enrich the soil.

We passed, in our morning's ride, through the town of Moira, which gives title to an Earl, who is the present governor general of India. It is a miserable, decayed village; the seat of the earl is also in a state of dilapidation, all owing, as I was informed, to the devastations of the gaming table.

At Lurgan I was introduced to a family of Friends, consisting of the father and mother, and fourteen children, seven sons and seven daughters. The mother nursed them all herself, and is still handsome and blooming. The oldest is about twenty-four and the youngest two and a half years old. Lurgan is a market town, and I had an opportunity this morning of witnessing the bustle of an Irish country market. The most curious part of it, was the manner in which flax and linen cloth, the great staple of the north, are bought and sold. The spinners come to the market to buy flax and tow, and to dispose of their yarn to the weavers; and the latter to buy yarn and to sell their cloth to the bleachers. A particular area, enclosed by a wall and opened and shut at a precise hour, is appropriated to the bleachers. They mount upon a ridge of stone blocks, with a pen and ink in their hands, and the weavers crowd around them, presenting their pieces of linen, and clamouring with impatience to get a chance of exhibiting their goods. The experienced purchasers judge, with surprising quickness, of the value of the linen. When the offered price is acceded to, the buyer marks it with his pen, attaches his signature, and after the market is over, meets his custo-

mers at the inn where he puts up, and finishes the transaction. Vast quantities of potatoes and fresh pork were displayed in the market. The former could be bought at the very low price of three pence per stone, or twenty and a half cents per bushel. That a country, where wholesome provisions are so plentiful and cheap should exhibit so much poverty and wretchedness, seems, at first view, to present a paradox in political economy. It is conceived by some, that the fertility of the soil and the great facility with which provisions, and especially potatoes may be raised, are among the causes of the distress and suffering of the lower classes. Confirmed as the poor of this island are in the habit of living in dirt and privation, and knowing that they can subsist on potatoes alone, and that the soil, with very little trouble, will produce a sufficiency for their maintenance, they have become, it has been said, habitually indisposed to make those exertions, and to practise that foresight and economy, which, were the land less productive, and the provision absolutely necessary to subsistence, more precarious, they might probably be compelled to observe. Such I know are the reasons assigned by some respectable writers, and Malthus among the rest, for the miserable condition of the Irish peasantry. But allowing this argument all the weight that it can possibly claim, it only goes to prove that the habits of the poor are exceedingly degraded. The causes of this degradation, and of course the primary causes of their sufferings, must, I think, be of a different nature.

Lurgan is probably one of the most respectable villages, for its size, in the island; and yet there were

more rags and poverty in the street than I recollect to have seen any where in England or Scotland. Ballad singers and venders of stories, and dying confessions, were heard in the streets, showing a depraved, or at least, an unenlightened taste among the people, which would scarcely be found in any part of the United States.

A friend conducted me to the seat, and through the grounds of—Brownlow, whose son is at present member of parliament for the county. It is delightfully situated near Lough Neagh, and finely diversified with lawns, avenues, and groves of large trees. A small lake in the park discharges its transparent waters into the large lake, and serves by its streamlets and ^{drains} ~~drains~~ to give an enchanting variety to the place. The grounds are bound in hares, which are seen in flocks of some hundreds, the owner not suffering them to be killed.

Lough Neagh contains about 100,000 English acres of surface, and is connected with Belfast by a canal, and with Newry by another.

I dined and lodged at the house of a friend, J. C*****, about five miles from Lurgan, whose residence is one of the neatest and most pleasant rural spots I have any where visited. His house, ground, manner of living, and intelligent conversation, gave me a very favourable opinion of the taste and character of an Irish country gentleman. He has a bleaching establishment at a short distance from his dwelling, the operation of which he superintends. The chlorate of lime, (or bleaching powder,) is made in a close room, the lime being spread on the floor and stirred frequently by rakes, which pass through the walls.

In the summer season they do not use much of this material, but depend chiefly on alkaline washings, and exposure to the sun and air. The process of stamping the linen on wooden cylinders, folding, pressing, and making it up into pieces, is carried on in this factory in great perfection. The noise produced by the stampers is almost deafening, and the violent friction which the linen undergoes, one would think sufficient to destroy the cohesion of its fibres, and greatly to weaken its strength.

The fruit and flower garden of this residence, is situated, as is usual in this part of Europe, so as to leave a fine lawn contiguous to the house free from enclosures, and ornamented with trees and shrubbery. In this respect, the taste for rural improvement in America, will admit of an almost total change for the better. We are very much in the Dutch way of crowding together gardens and out-houses, and making them, for the sake of convenience, contiguous to the main dwelling, to the destruction of all neatness, and too often of health and comfort. The garden here is surrounded, and also divided into two parts, by a high wall, for the advantage of fruit. It contains a neat conservatory.

10th. At Bambridge, a thriving town, two and a half miles from where I slept, I joined the coach this morning for Dublin. The town of Newry, at which we soon arrived, is built of stone, and has rather a dull and uninteresting appearance. The church is a neat edifice. My only companion from this place in the inside of the coach, proved to be a very intelligent and affable gentleman, and as I afterwards learned, an eminent surgeon of Dublin. He

had been to Belfast on a professional visit, and is an intimate friend of Dr. M'D***** of that place, whose politeness I have reason to acknowledge.

At Drogheda, an old and uncomfortable looking town, we were surrounded with the most numerous and sturdy swarm of beggars, that I have ever encountered. Women in tatters, with children in their arms, men on crutches, old and young, jostled each other to approach the sides of the coach, each striving to be heard in the recital of his tale of distress, and in various and ludicrous attitudes, saluting each of us, as our looks were turned to them, with "God bless your honour; a happy journey to your honour, and a long life to you; and will your honour's honour plase to bestow a little charity upon a poor cratur, who has not tasted a bit to-day." It is distressing to witness scenes of this kind; but begging, when thus permitted, becomes in reality, so much of a *trade*, that one does not know how much of such apparent wretchedness, is to be ascribed to an affectation of misery; and hence it seems impossible to bestow indiscriminate charity, without encouraging dissimulation and dishonesty.

The country on this road is rather hilly. On approaching the metropolis we passed a mount, which, as my surgical companion informed me, is the resort of those who resolve to settle their personal quarrels, by the humane and equitable decision of powder and ball! He told me, that he was once called upon as a surgeon, to attend in an affair of that kind. One of the antagonists was shot through the head, and fell; and the rest all ran away and left him. Rencounters of this kind, he informed me, are not unfrequent.

Surely among every enlightened, Christian people, we may pronounce that temper and disposition to be truly ferocious, which cannot be satisfied without attempting to revenge a private, and, perhaps, an insignificant quarrel, by seeking the blood of a fellow creature, and with a murderous hand exposing its own life, and in all probability, the future happiness of an innocent family. How long will this practice, worthy of a Vandal age, continue to be the opprobrium of Christendom?

It was dark when we entered the city, and at Gresham's hotel in Sackville-street, I found accommodations and attendance which might satisfy the most fastidious traveller.

LETTER XXXVIII.

Dublin, 4th month, (April) 17, 1819.

MY DEAR ****,

A LETTER delivered last evening, introduced me to the family of *. *****, with whom I have spent most of this day, (the 11th,) which is the first of the week. There is but one meeting of Friends in this city, which I have twice attended, the first beginning at ten, and the second at two o'clock. Dinner is not taken till after the second meeting. About 120 families comprise the whole of the society of Friends in Dublin. Their dress, manners, and general appearance remind me forcibly of Philadelphia. In intelli-

gence, and various marks of good taste, there appears to be a near equality in the society of the two cities.

12th. Every stranger must be impressed at his first arrival in Dublin, with the elegance of its principal streets and squares, and the magnificence of its public buildings. In respect to the latter, there are few towns in Europe that vie with it. It is not in the religious edifices, that the skill of the architect, and the funds of the nation, have been so liberally bestowed, but in those buildings which belong more immediately to the government. The post office, the parliament house, (now converted into the bank of Ireland,) and above all, the custom house, have not, I should presume to say, been surpassed in any city of Europe, in buildings of a similar kind.

Sackville-street is really the most spacious in point of width; and as it regards the buildings, hotels, shops, &c. which line it on each side, it is one of the noblest, in the British dominions. It contains the post office, a new edifice, and probably the most elegant and costly in the world, of those which have been erected for the same purpose. It is of beautiful granite, three stories high. The front is decorated with six Corinthian pillars, supporting a grand portico, under which is the front entrance to the different departments. From the court yard, there are arched passages into other streets, whence the mail coaches enter to receive their different bags. The cost of this building was £80,000 sterling. In Dublin, as well as in London and Paris, boxes are placed in different parts of the city, for receiving letters; producing a great convenience and saving of time, to those who live remote from the general office. The small

additional expense which this occasions, is doubtless, more than compensated by the facilities it affords to correspondence.

Nearly opposite the post office, in the middle of the street, is a pillar erected in honour of Lord Nelson. It is 144 feet high. A flight of 169 steps conducts to the top, whence the eye has a fine view of the city and bay. On the top is a gallery, and a statue of Nelson thirteen feet in height, leaning on the capstan of a ship. The pillar is surrounded by iron pallisades and lamps. But I am mistaken, if men of judgment do not, hereafter, pronounce that it was at least a bad taste which placed such a huge pile of materials in such a position, as to obstruct the view of one of the finest streets in the kingdom.

The linen hall in which the staple of Ireland is exhibited in all its varieties, is, as might be supposed, a very extensive building, comprehending numerous apartments appropriated to different divisions of this important trade.

The house of industry, or principal alms-house of Dublin is a very large establishment, and contains at present about 2500 paupers. Many of them are kept at work. The children are separated from the adults, and are regularly instructed in work and the elements of learning. The schools are conducted upon a plan composed of the systems of Bell and Lancaster. The sexes are taught in separate apartments. Each bed in the dormitory, the cleanliness of which is truly praise-worthy, is covered by a quilt made by the scholars. The children, though healthy, and in good condition, had a remarkable cast of countenance;

far less animated and intelligent than those in common domestic society. They live much on potatoes, about five tons of which are consumed per diem in the whole house. The different buildings of this extensive charity bear the names of Richmond, Wentworth, &c. who were lords lieutenant of Ireland at the time they were respectively erected.

The “Dublin Institution,” to which I have been introduced to-day, consists of a library and news-room, in Sackville-street, both well supplied. In the latter I found several files of recent New-York papers; which, at this distance of space and time from the place of my residence could not fail to afford an acceptable relish. The cup was not unmixed with bitter, from observing an account of the death of one or two intimate and valued friends.

13th. The Pauper Lunatic Asylum, which I have visited to-day, contains 230 patients, and such is the skill and judgment with which it is conducted, there is not one of this large family of mad people in close confinement. No irons are employed. The large leathern glove which confines the hands as in a close muff, but which is so made as to prevent the appearance of constraint, is the principal coercion employed; moral government supplies the rest; and this owes its perfection mainly to the personal qualifications of — Grace, the present manager. The patients are divided into three classes, incurables, ordinary, and convalescent; each of which occupies distinct apartments. The building is a quadrangle, surrounding a large hollow square, which is divided by cross galleries into four courts, and on the outside

are five yards, with a good garden in front. Scarcely any noise was to be heard in the house. The rooms occupied by the convalescent patients are rendered as cheerful as possible, by introducing whatever will supply the patient with safe and agreeable employment, or contribute to his amusement. The building is not of so convenient a structure as the more modern asylums of Glasgow and Wakefield, but its defect is very much compensated by excellent management; and it certainly holds up an example of this kind of charity which is worthy of the Irish metropolis.

14th. At a breakfast this morning at the house of Dr. T*****, a good mineralogist, I met Drs. O**** and S*****, the latter of whom delivers lectures on natural history in Trinity College. Dr. T***** and his wife are natives of India, and the children of Hindoo mothers, their fathers being Europeans. Their complexions are of an agreeable ruddy brunette, with eyes dark and sparkling, but expressive of much good nature and intelligence.

Drs. O. and T. accompanied me to Sir Patrick Dunn's hospital, a building recently erected on the borders of the city, and intended, in addition to the accommodation of 100 patients, or, if necessity requires, 130, as a supplement to the medical school of Trinity College. The building is rather an elegant structure, and cost £40,000. It contains, for the purpose of instruction, a lecture-room, and a medical library. The fever ward is remarkably well ventilated. I attended two lectures in succession on *Materia Medica* and *Physiology*, by Drs. Crampton and Boyton, both of whom confined themselves chiefly to the reading of their notes. At half past twelve we went to the

anatomical museum of Trinity College, and heard a lecture from Dr. Macartney, to whom I was introduced. In the centre of the museum is suspended the skeleton of a grampus, fifteen or twenty feet in length. The preparations in this museum are numerous and valuable: among them are two rare and celebrated specimens. One of these is the skeleton of one Clark, a native of Cork, who it is said was a young man of surprising strength and agility; but having once lain all night in a field, after indulging in great dissipation, the left parts of his body began to ossify, and the process continued, by slow degrees, until every part grew into a bony substance, excepting his skin, eyes, and entrails. His joints became stiffened, so that he could neither bend his body, lie down, nor rise up, without assistance: when placed upright, like a statue, he could stand; but could move no more than if dead. His teeth were joined, and formed into one entire bone, so that it became necessary to break a hole through them to convey liquid substances, to preserve a miserable life. His tongue lost its use, and his sight left him sometime before he expired. This preparation shows the progress of this singular instance of disease, a parallel to which is not perhaps to be found in any other collection.

The other is the skeleton of a giant, who attained the height of seven feet in his sixteenth year. As the story goes, he was an orphan, that fell into the hands of Bishop Berkley, and who, with the view of making an experiment in physiology, trained the boy for the purpose of accelerating and extending his growth. His name was Magrath. He was carried through several parts of Europe, and exhibited as the Irish

giant; but he was so dizorganised, that he gradually sunk into imbecility of body and mind, and died of old age at twenty.

Dr. Macartney is a man of superior attainments in his profession. Most of the articles on Physiology, in Rees's Cyclopedia, are from his pen.

Dr. Stokes conducted me through the museum of the college, a fine room 60 by 40 feet, and furnished with a good collection of natural curiosities, especially of Irish antiquities and fossils. Dr. S. has published a catalogue of the minerals in this museum, which occupies an octavo volume. Among the zoological articles is a cameleopard. Two Egyptian mummies, and a great variety of dresses, implements, &c. from China and the South Pacific, are also here collected.

The buildings of Trinity College make a plain and rather antiquated, but respectable appearance. They are almost all of brick, except the front which is of Portland stone. The general structure is that of a parallelogram 300 feet in front, and 600 deep, which is divided into two nearly equal squares. The south side of the inner square is entirely taken up by the library, the great room of which is 210 feet long, 40 wide, and 40 high. The galleries are ornamented with the busts of a number of ancient as well as modern philosophers, in white marble. The park attached to the college, contains about eight acres. The number of students resident in this university is generally about six or seven hundred; and instruction is given to at least an equal number who board in the town. The medical classes appeared to contain about seventy. There are, in the whole, twelve or

thirteen professors. Twenty-two fellowships are also provided for.

The jaunting car of a worthy friend, S. B*****, conveyed me to his residence, to dinner, several miles from the city, where I found a hospitable and truly intelligent family, in whose society I enjoyed a most agreeable evening. Conversation seldom languishes on occasions like this, for in the absence of incidental or ordinary topics, the curiosity and interest so much cherished by people of enlightened minds in every part of Europe in relation to America,—the varying shades of our manners, laws, diction, &c. and particularly the progress of improvements in the recently settled states, furnish inexhaustible sources of inquiry and anecdotal remark.

15th. Rising early, I had a delightful morning ride with my friend B*****, and two of his sons, to Dunleary, a promontory at the mouth of the Liffy. At this place the government is now constructing a pier of stone, designed to extend a great distance into the channel, for purposes similar to the breakwater of Plymouth, to protect vessels from the sweeping winds which drive across the Irish channel. It already extends 1500 feet from the shore, and is rapidly advancing. The granite of which it is composed, is blasted in the neighbourhood, and brought in low trucks upon iron railways, to the spot where it is to be added to the general mass. These rail roads afford such facilities to the transportation, that a single horse, and a very poor one too, will draw nine or ten tons. The stones are lifted on the trucks by large cranes. The design of this work, and the style of its execution, are very interesting, and quite in character with the

munificence and enterprise which are so conspicuous a feature in the public works of Dublin and its vicinity.

On returning to the city we stopped at the school and buildings of the Education Society, Kildare-street; a laudable and important institution for extending the blessings of education amongst the poor of Ireland. My friend B***** is an active and devoted manager; and with him, I believe, the concern originated. This society extends its patronage to schools in all parts of Ireland, without distinction of sect, except to such as refuse to conform to its prescribed regulations; one of which is, that the sacred Scriptures, without note or comment, shall be read in the schools. It has printed a great number of books for the use of schools, which it disposes of at a very cheap rate. The school supported by the society is justly styled a model school: it now contains 420 boys, and 190 girls, all of whom pay one penny per week. The principal school-room is 86 by 56 feet, with a ceiling of 20 feet, supported by two rows of cast iron pillars, all neatly painted. The floor is level, with a large platform at one end, four steps high, with ample book cases. Each school-room is furnished with a clock. It is conducted principally on the system of Lancaster, but with some useful modifications. The neatness and convenience of the buildings, and the good order and management which prevail in this school, render it altogether, in my estimation, the first of the kind in Europe. The society is supported by a government grant of £6000 a year,* and by donations and subscriptions.

* Now, (1823) £10,000.

The buildings cost £12000, and the amount of business which the society is engaged in, requires the regular employment of three clerks. About 500,000 cheap books, comprising twenty different kinds, have been disposed of in different parts of the island.

In its labours to diffuse learning, it has to encounter a host of prejudice from the Catholic priests; but it has the satisfaction to find that these are gradually yielding to the progress of light and knowledge. The Irish language still prevails to such an extent, I am informed, that there are a million and a half of people in the kingdom that cannot hold a conversation in English.

From this interesting and well-conducted institution* I went to the house of the Dublin Society. This is the simple but emphatic name of a company associated expressly for promoting scientific and

* This institution continues to be very flourishing. By the report of last year, (1822) it appears that the society had extended aid to 272 schools during the preceding year, and that there were in connection with the society, 513 schools, in which about 40,000 children were receiving instruction. The society awards gratuities to the masters and mistresses of such schools, in all parts of the island, as appear, upon the inspection of an agent, who visits them under the appointment of the society, to be conducted with skill and fidelity. This salutary measure has the effect of exciting emulation among the teachers, and thereby increasing their diligence and exertions.

In the publication and circulation of cheap books, of an improved character, for the use of the lower orders, the efforts of the society have been remarkably successful. They have nearly expelled from the trade of country shops and hawkers, the ribaldry and pernicious books which formerly constituted the greater portion of the reading of the lower orders. The price of their cheap books is £6 per thousand, in quires. They have published forty varieties of five sheet books, and eight varieties of two sheet books. The number of copies printed and published, in 1821. was about 200,000.

liberal knowledge among its members, and with a consequent view of exciting a more refined and philosophic spirit throughout the capital and nation. The plan of the society is so well approved, that it receives £10,000 a year from government. It has recently purchased, at a cost of £20,000, the superb mansion of the Duke of Leinster, in Kildare-street. A lofty hall, which is first entered, contains several statues and busts, among which is a fine statue of Belvidere, and a bust of the Prince Regent. A double flight of stairs leads to the several apartments of the museum, which includes a valuable collection in the several branches of natural history. In mineralogy it is uncommonly rich. One collection, the Leskean, was purchased by the society for £1250, and is arranged according to the Wernerian system. But the most interesting part of the mineralogical cabinet is a collection brought from Greenland by Charles Giesecke, a German, I believe, who spent about seven years in Greenland for the purpose of obtaining a knowledge of the minerals, natural history, and curiosities, of that frozen region. Giesecke is now professor of mineralogy in this institution. He has placed in one of the apartments, the Greenland hut in which he lodged, with his bed, made of the skin of a white bear, and the various utensils and articles of apparel that served him during his long residence in the arctic regions. A model of a sledge drawn by three dogs, and of a male and female Greenlander in full dress, render this exhibition of arctic manners still more complete. This enterprising traveller and naturalist is now absent in Germany, with the view of

adding to the cabinets of this society. The library occupies a spacious and elegant room, which was formerly the picture gallery of the Duke of Leinster.

The lecture room is sufficiently large to accommodate 300 persons. I attended a lecture on optics by Professor Lynch. Among the apparatus, I had the pleasure of seeing the famous lens made by Parker of London, and which came into the hands of Richard Kirwan. Professor Griffith, who superintends the geological department, conducted me over the house. He has in hand, an immense geological map of Ireland, with a drawing of the causeway and adjacent strata. The Dublin Society comprehends about 500 members. The spirit and liberality with which its concerns appear to be managed, the elegance of its apartments, and the richness of its collections, are worthy of all praise. The society give premiums for improvements in agriculture, manufactures, chemistry, mechanics, and the fine arts, and on appointed days in each week, the museum may be seen without charge.

I dined with Dr. O****, with an agreeable and very intelligent party, consisting of several medical and other gentlemen of the city. The conversation turned incidentally on craniology, materialism, and a future state; and I had the satisfaction to find, that scepticism appeared to have no place in the minds of any individual of the company.

16th. In the possession of a young friend, J. P**, with whom I took breakfast this morning, I found a neat collection of philosophical apparatus, designed for his own instruction, and that of his intimate

friends. As an instance of private taste, in one whose occupation does not necessarily lead to those objects, I cannot but think it worthy of commendatory notice. Such pursuits, while they give precision to the views in relation to the phenomena of nature, cannot but tend to strengthen the virtuous energies of character.

The city of Dublin, until recently, has been noted for the disgusting numbers, and the hardy importunity of the beggars that infest its streets. The almost universal opinion of the necessity of applying some new remedy, to so wide spread and alarming an evil, led to the formation of a society, about eighteen months ago, for the suppression of mendicity in the metropolis. It was a truly formidable undertaking; but the evil had acquired such magnitude, that men were found who were willing to cope with the monster, and exert their utmost to accomplish his final overthrow. In the first report which the society published, for 1818, it is stated, that "The city presented a spectacle, at once afflicting and disgusting to the feelings of its inhabitants; the doors of carriages and shops, to the interruption of business, were beset by crowds of unfortunate and clamorous beggars, exhibiting misery and decrepitude in a variety of forms, and frequently carrying about in their persons and garments, the seeds of contagious disease: themselves the victims of idleness, their children were taught to look to begging, as affording the only means of subsistence; every artifice was resorted to by the practised beggar to extort alms, and refusal was frequently followed by imprecations and threats. The benevolent were imposed upon—the modest shocked—the reflecting grieved—the timid

alarmed. In short, so distressing was the whole scene, and so intolerable the nuisance, that its suppression became a matter of necessity."

To attempt, however, to cut off so numerous a class of people from their principal resource, without providing an adequate substitute, would have been a gross violation of humanity. The city was therefore divided into sixty walks, and two persons appointed to each walk, to collect subscriptions to a fund for furnishing employment for all who could work, and subsistence for those that could not support themselves. It was found, unfortunately, that no authority existed in the police for arresting the sturdy beggar, other than that of arraigning him as a vagrant, and subjecting him to the penalties of the law as a criminal; and none were willing to adopt so harsh a remedy. It was feared too, by many, who were otherwise friendly to the measure of an universal suppression of mendicity, that any mode which could be devised to obtain voluntary contributions, must terminate in establishing a compulsory tax in the shape of poor rates, and thus prove the means of bringing upon the city the accumulating disadvantages and evils of the English system. Many supposed it would be impossible to clear the streets of beggars; and others believed, that if means were systematically employed to furnish them with labour, it would tend to relax their dependence on their own foresight, and by interfering with the business of the industrious poor, eventually increase the number of dependents on public bounty. These objections and anticipations, greatly increased the difficulties which the society had to encounter, and at last they found them-

selves under the necessity of relinquishing the plan altogether, or of commencing their operations, with the very inadequate fund of £1600.

Trusting to the gradual removal of these difficulties, and a more bountiful supply from the public, they entered upon their duties, gave extensive publicity to their plan, and succeeded in *registering* 7500 beggars, of whom 2251 were sent to their friends in England, Scotland, and the country parts of Ireland, and about 2800 were deemed proper objects of relief. The plan has been successful in clearing the streets; so far, that at present, one is less importuned here than in London or Manchester. But the committee of management continued to be so straitened for funds, that at one time they were obliged to resort to the measure of turning out the inmates of their workhouse, and moving them, in a quiet procession through the streets, to exhibit to the citizens the number and description of objects that were dependent on public charity. This excited a considerable sensation, produced some funds, and occasioned resolutions to be passed in various parishes, approving of the objects of the association. But in less than two months it became necessary to call a public meeting, and adopt more active measures of relief. These, together with public concerts, and some very liberal donations, have enabled the committee to struggle, with much difficulty, through a year's existence; and, whether the scheme is destined to a much longer duration, appears, at present, extremely uncertain. It is at least to be earnestly hoped, that the city will not allow the plan to be wholly given up; but, that at least the virtuous poor will continue to be so assisted, as to pre-

vent the necessity of a resort to their former degrading and demoralizing habits of street mendicity. The employment which the association has found most advantageous is the spinning of coarse yarn.

They support a school of 280 children, in which the elements of learning are alternated with knitting, and such other manual exercises as are found most useful. A large apartment, formerly the lecture-room of the Dublin Society, is appropriated to the female spinners; but a more miserable, turbulent, and uncouth assemblage of human beings I never saw, excepting, perhaps, in some of the lunatic hospitals of the continent. The society is obliged to employ collectors of the public charity, whom they send out as often as the state of their funds make it necessary; and to whom they have to allow two and a half per cent. of the amount collected, as the price of their exertions. They call on every body that is able to pay any thing. Such are the difficulties which have here presented themselves in the way of preventing public mendicity, and affording an adequate relief to the really necessitous poor, without resorting to a government tax. And such, it is probable, to a greater or less extent, will be the difficulty in every large city; excepting in those places where the poor can be brought within the province of religious superintendence, and their wants supplied by contributions, made under the authority of religious societies.

The plan of maintenance and superintendence suggested by Dr. Chalmers, is probably the least exceptionable, and the most effectual that ever has been devised; but it evidently requires the agency of a moral and religious community; and can only be prac-

tised in situations, not only where the common feelings of the people are in its favour, but where a sufficient number of individuals can be found, who, from philanthropic and religious motives, will be willing to volunteer their services in this arduous duty. But where, excepting in Scotland, can these be obtained?

Notwithstanding the urgent necessity of such a reform as that undertaken in Dublin, there are not, I am informed, more than twenty persons who take an active interest in the concern. Under all circumstances of the case, it appears to me to be an important and unsolved problem in political economy, whether a poor tax, divested, as far as possible, of all liability of abuse, and unaccompanied by statutes which give the poor a legal and positive claim upon it, may not prove, upon the whole, the most equitable, moral, and efficient mode of relief. Its numerous and vast abuses in England, or, in other words, the very injudicious administration of the law, may have been the means of bringing it under undeserved censure and reproach. This is a question which it is highly important for the United States to reflect and decide upon, with the utmost circumspection.*

* By the interesting report of the Dublin association for the suppression of mendicity, for 1821, it appears, that the institution has been able to surmount the difficulties which threatened its existence, and is advancing prosperously in the important objects it had undertaken. The report states, that the striking features in the system are, 1st. That the management of the establishment is gratuitous. 2dly. That the poor, seeking relief, must purchase it by their labour, *in every case* where their health and strength will permit their being employed. The committee express it as their opinion, that should the public cease to feel a lively interest in the conduct of the institution—should it at any time receive pecuniary assistance from the government of the country—or, on the other hand, should it ever become a comfortable and alluring retreat for the distressed—or should *labour, in fit cases,*

Dr. O**** accompanied me to the Bank of Ireland, an elegant edifice, on one corner of the College green, and opposite to Trinity College. The Irish notes are executed in a superior style, and are all finished within the Bank, by an apparatus of singular ingenuity. A remarkably neat steam-engine, of eight horse power, is employed in printing the notes, and grinding the materials for the ink or paint. The printing press is a beautiful piece of mechanism. The notes are all numbered by machinery, and with a precision and rapidity that could not well be attained by mere manual dexterity. It is effected by boys. The numbers are all on the outside or circumference of wheels, contained in a box. There are two sets of them on the same axis, in order to impress two notes at the same time. The wheels project upwards through a cavity in the plates, which cover the box. The note is pressed down by a short lever, governed by the hand; and by the raising of the lever a ratchet is moved, which turns the wheels so as to bring the next number before the opening in the plate. In this manner, without unlocking the box, or touching the wheels, numbers, from one to ten thousand, are brought to bear with unerring regularity on the notes

be dispensed with—then, instead of being *what it now is*, a great public benefit, it would degenerate into a great public nuisance.

It appears also, by the report, that the number of the poor on the books of the Society in Jan. 1822, was less by 219 than in Jan. 1821; and that in 1821 the lowest number was 274 less than it was in 1820. The expenditure also in 1821 was more than £1000 less than in 1820. It is thus evident, that the effect of furnishing employment to the poor that can work, and affording assistance to those that are incapable of it, is to diminish, gradually, the number of those who depend upon the charity of others; and, at the same time, to free the streets from the nuisance of mendicancy.

in succession. This mode of numbering notes is the invention, I was told, of — Bramah, but modified and improved by — Oldham, the engineer of this bank. The border round the Irish notes is also executed by machinery. This bank, with its court-yards, covers more than an acre and a half of ground. It is built of Portland stone, and is a more elegant edifice than the Bank of England. It has a grand portico on College Green of 147 feet, with columns of the Ionic order. The cash-office is larger than that of the bank in London. The doors, desks, and offices, are of mahogany throughout the bank, and very neatly executed. The building is supplied with reservoirs of water, and with several fire-engines, one of which requires thirty men. Near the hall, on one side, is an armoury with a large stand of arms, and the officers and clerks form a corps of yeomanry, ready to repel any invasion upon this grand depository of Irish wealth. Whether such a precaution as this is deemed necessary in similar institutions, in other parts of Europe, I have not learned ; but I question whether our half score of banks in New-York, with their twelve millions of capital, could muster two muskets a piece in the way of protection.

The apartment of the late house of lords, now used as a court of proprietors, remains as it was left at the time of the union. A beautiful marble statue of the present king, clothed in his parliamentary robes, has been since erected here. It was executed by Bacon, junior, and cost £2000. There is also a fine bust of the Duke of Wellington.

The Custom-House of Dublin is another and still more extraordinary evidence of the taste and magni-

ficence of the government. It was finished in 1791, after being ten years in building. Its length is 375 feet, and depth 209, with four distinct fronts, and a majestic dome in the centre, 125 feet high, on which is a female statue of commerce, sixteen feet in height. The south front is entirely of Portland stone, and the other three of white mountain granite. The two chief commissioners of the revenue, and the two secretaries, have their dwellings within the walls. A great variety of emblematic figures, statues, &c. ornament the fronts and other parts of this building. The long room is 70 feet by 65, and 30 feet in height. The whole cost of this stately edifice has been named to me at £500,000, but this is, perhaps, too high an estimate. But if it cost half of this sum, and it certainly did not fall short of it, such an instance of public liberality is rarely to be found, even in the most commercial cities.

Close to the eastern front is a broad wharf, and a wet dock, capable of containing forty sail of shipping.

The Royal Exchange, though built many years antecedent to the Custom-House, is also a noble and costly building, with a lofty dome, Corinthian columns, pilasters, and other architectural ornaments. Opposite one of the fronts is a brass statue of George III. on a white marble pedestal. Beside these, another edifice has been erected near the College green, called the Commercial Buildings, by a company of merchants for transacting some particular branches of business. It is spacious and neat, with an extensive coffee-room, broker's offices, stock exchange, &c. fitted up in good style. This edifice alone, must have cost more than all the public buildings in the most

commercial city of the United States, exclusively appropriated to commercial objects.

The castle of Dublin, the residence of the lord lieutenant, is situated in a central part of the city. It is an ancient edifice, but is superior in beauty to the palace of St. James. It is divided into two courts or squares, an upper and lower. The castle is entirely surrounded by a wall. The lord lieutenant enjoys, by Act of Parliament, a salary of £30,000; more than five times the sum which the constitution of the United States allows to the President.

The seat of public justice in Dublin is a large pile of buildings, called the Four Courts, on the margin of the Liffey, which is here only a wide canal. In the middle is a circular hall 64 feet in diameter, the crowded resort of lawyers, loungers, and occasionally of light-fingered gentry, notwithstanding the imposing terrors of judge and jury immediately within their notice. The whole length of the four courts is 433 feet. I had not an opportunity to attend to any of the pleadings.

I went to see, in one of the public buildings, (the Rotunda) an exhibition of flowers under the direction of the Horticultural society. The gifts of Flora, prepared by the emulous skill of gardeners and gentlemen in the city and neighbourhood, are arranged on this occasion with singular taste and effect. Prizes are adjudged to the finest specimens. Such a procedure excites competition, and doubtless tends to the progress of horticultural improvement.

Dr. Cleghorn, the state physician, to whom I was introduced by a friend in Edinburgh, accompanied

me, this morning, to such of the hospitals as my limited time would permit me to look into. The first we visited was Swift's Hospital, founded by the celebrated dean, and for the support of which he bequeathed £11,000. The trustees purchased an estate of £400 a year, and the funds have since been considerably increased by legacies. It is chiefly an asylum for lunatics and idiots. It contains 50 patients, who pay a guinea a week, and 100 paupers. The maniacs' rooms are ranged along the galleries, and kept in a cleanly and becoming condition. A mild system of treatment is adopted: chains are not admitted as means of coercion. The women and men are in separate divisions of the building, and there are gardens in which the patients take recreation. The sums received from the pay patients nearly supports the hospital.

We went from this place to the Foundling Hospital, an institution of more than a hundred years standing. It is appropriated to the same purpose as the *Enfants trouvés* of Paris and other cities of the continent, and is, I presume, the only hospital in Great Britain devoted to this object. It is a large and well supported establishment, although its tendency, in relation to public morals, is considered, I believe, by most people, as of no dubious character. The sum of at least £10,000, is collected annually from the citizens of Dublin, for the support of this hospital. A cradle was formerly kept at the gate, as at Milan, into which children were placed from without, and received into the house without any questions. But this has been wisely abandoned, and strict inquiry is now made into the parentage of the children and their

claims to the charity. They are taken in sometimes, from the distance of 100 miles. During the twenty-one years ending the eighth of July, 1818, as Dr. C. ascertained by the books, there have been admitted 43,254 children, of which 11,613 have died in the house. Of these, 524 were the innocent victims of a disease, dishonourably transmitted to them by their parents. When an infant is brought in, it is stripped, washed, and one of its arms is tatooed, or marked with its name, &c. by pricking into the skin, an ink composed of a mixture of India ink, indigo, and a little gunpowder. It is kept at wet nurse in the house, until a suitable nurse is provided from the country; and of these there is generally a redundancy of applications. They remain with their country nurses eleven years, for which the hospital pays £4 a year. They are then brought back and supported in the house, until a suitable place is provided for them, as apprentices or servants. In the hospital they are kept alternately at school and at work. There are now in the house about 1100. We went into the schools and workshops, and candour obliges me to confess, that I consider the institution, in general, as under very enlightened and judicious management. In the girls' school were 400 pupils, and in the boys' 300. They are taught principally on Bell's system. We heard some of the classes read in the Scriptures, and answer questions on what they had read, dictated by the monitors. Both the questions and answers afforded evidence of superior mental training. The employments consist chiefly of carding, spinning, weaving, tayloring, and shoemaking. The clothes

and shoes used in the hospital, are all made in the shops of the establishment. Some of the boys, about twelve years old, were weaving broadcloth. To encourage them in habits of industry, they are allowed to possess one-sixth of their earnings, and some of them by this means have on hand more than £6. The chapel of the institution may be called elegant. The refectory is large, convenient, and clean. When assembled at their meals, a boy mounts into a pulpit, and says grace, after which about twenty of them sing a short hymn. The kitchen is kept in very cleanly order, and the peas soup destined for dinner, was of an excellent quality. The girls were mostly employed in spinning stocking yarn. The nursery is very clean. The cradles are made with a double head, to accommodate each two infants. A clock is kept in the nursery, on which is inscribed these words.

“For the benefit of infants protected by this hospital, lady Arabelia Denny presents this clock, to mark, that, as children who are fed by the spoon, must have but a small quantity of food at a time, it must be offered frequently. For which purpose this clock strikes every twenty minutes, at which notice all the infants that are not asleep must be directly fed.”

It was not until within about four years, that the governors of this hospital, were empowered by act of parliament to exclude the admission of infants at any season of the year, and to require that every admission should be accompanied by a certificate from the minister and churchwardens of the parish, stating that they had not been able to discover the parents, or either of them; or, that the parent or parents, were not in circumstances sufficient to maintain such child.

They were induced to petition for this authority, in consequence of the very crowded state of the hospital, and the excessive mortality among the infants soon after their admission, arising from the great exposure of the little sufferers, brought at all seasons of the year, and in all kinds of weather, by hired carriers, and often from the distance of more than 100 miles. It is surprising, that notwithstanding the manifest humanity of the act, which authorised the governors to restrict such an indiscriminate admission, a petition was presented to the lord lieutenant the next year, by the mayor, sheriffs, and citizens of Dublin, complaining of the restriction, and craving the interference of the viceroy, to induce the governors of the Foundling Hospital to relax in their regulations, and intimating that there was reason to believe that infanticide had been the consequence. The governors, however, are so thoroughly convinced of the superior humanity of commencing a system of restriction, which shall finally lead to the entire abolition of the institution, that they returned an energetic reply to the lord lieutenant, in which they state their unequivocal opinion, that the difficulty of conducting such institutions, and the evils resulting from them, prove that they are, on the whole, injurious to the morals, and consequently to the happiness of society; and that their effects in saving life, are, upon the whole, under the best management, extremely doubtful.

The whole number of infants admitted during the first four months of 1812, 1813, and 1814, and the proportion of them which died in the nursery, are as follows :

	Infants admitted.	Died in nursery.
1812	1011	437
1813	850	428
1814	818	406

This shows a mortality of nearly one half, arising, in a great measure, from the enfeebled and destitute condition of the little sufferers, from the disgraceful manner in which they are sent to the hospital; and it appears to afford a most ample justification of the restriction adopted by the governors. Hence it would appear evident that notwithstanding the great attention that is paid to the health, and instruction, of the children received into this charity, its general influence on the community must be regarded as decidedly unfavourable to morals and humanity. The governors have not found, upon the strictest investigation, that the removal of the cradle, and the closing of their gates during the inclement months, and the requiring of a certificate as indispensable to admission, have given rise to any considerable number of authenticated cases of infanticide. But even if this did occur much more frequently than is alleged by the supporters of the institution, they fall very far short of the deaths that are occasioned by depriving the infants of the natural and congenial sympathies of the mother.

There are six or eight hospitals in this city, in addition to those I have mentioned, some of which were founded, and are still supported, by the munificence of individuals. A house of recovery for persons afflicted with fever was erected in 1802, which has proved to be of extensive benefit. The only conditions of admission are fever and poverty. The patients are

removed from their own uncomfortable dwellings in a carriage hung on springs, supported by two men; and, in the hospital, every attention is paid to cleanliness, ventilation, and fumigation.

A school for the deaf and dumb is about to be established in the neighbourhood of the city.*

Few cities are superior to Dublin in the elegance of its public squares. Two of them, St. Stephen's Green, and Merrion Square, may vie with any of the public squares of London, or of any other city that I have seen. The former contains seventeen acres, and the houses around it are generally handsome. It is neatly enclosed, and improved by spacious gravel walks. In the centre is an equestrian statue, in bronze, of George II.

Having secured a passage in the Pelham packet for Holyhead, I left Dublin in a long coach for Howth, the place whence the packets for England depart, seven miles from the city. The packets are small, but their accommodations are pretty good. It was near night when we got on board, and I had but just time before retiring to the birth assigned me, to ascertain that there were several very gentlemanly and polite persons on board, among whom was Hans Hamilton, member of parliament for Dublin, and the Bishop of Drummore.

* This Institution contains, at present, forty-five pupils.

LETTER XXXIX.

Kendal, Westmoreland, 4th month, (April) 23, 1819.

MY DEAR *****,

No foreigner of liberal feelings, can pay even as short a visit to Ireland as I have done, without being charmed with the instances he will have met with, of generous friendship, of open-hearted hospitality, and of that noble-mindedness which has rendered this island the nursery of so many characters that have added lustre to the political history, the learning, science, and moral elevation of Great Britain. Nor can he leave such a country without a singular mixture of delight and sorrow;—delight at the discovery of so much natural beauty in the scenery, such exuberant fertility in the soil, so much taste and elegance in the capital, and disinterested generosity in the character. But the sources of regret are also numerous. A people divided among themselves, and indulging in feelings of rancorous hostility to each other. Religious prejudices corroding the vitals of national prosperity, and impeding, as by a strenuous effort, the progress of national happiness. A peasantry ground to the dust by oppression, living in the most abject state of discomfort and privation, yet marrying and increasing as if their condition was one of the happiest. A populace so debased by ignorance, indolence, and prejudice, as to render the possession of freedom, without a previous extension of light and knowledge among them, a measure of questionable

policy and humanity. A country containing the most productive land in Europe, yet almost entirely in the possession of wealthy holders, who, after collecting the fruits of their impoverished tenantry, spend their income in England, and too seldom animate those that labour for them by their presence and their kindness. A population of seven millions, six sevenths of whom are compelled to pay a tithe of their earnings to support a ministry and a religion which they detest.—Parishes, in some cases without churches; and ministers without congregations, but still demanding to be supported;—two national church establishments, a rich and a poor, and the poor supporting both.—Such are the evils which mar the happiness, and war against the prosperity of this nation.

In order to increase the amount of rents, and to give the landholders greater influence at elections, the land is divided into minute subdivisions; and on these forty shilling tenements, just enough for a patch of potatoes, a couple of pigs, or possibly a cow, the poor cotter, with his numerous family, is content to live; knowing, that as long as his children are secure in a large potato for a meal, there is no danger of their starving. His ambition to mend his condition is paralyzed by the difficulties that on all hands surround him; and still more, by the habits of inactivity and submissive poverty which have been transmitted to him through successive generations. No one, it appears to me, who has studied the Irish character, can doubt that it contains the elements of true greatness; and that, under a system of government adapted to their wants, and administered so as to secure their affections, no people in Europe would prove

themselves more loyal. In the United States there has been much opportunity for the unsophisticated character of this people to display itself. It is true, that among the numerous emigrants from the southern parts of the island, there has been a mass of vicious materials poured upon our shores, which, by its natural effervescence, especially in the large towns, has swelled the registers of our criminal courts, and augmented the sum of our poor rates. But in proportion to the assimilation of those imported habits, with the freedom of the country, and the facilities of subsistence—as the importance of acquiring a reputation and standing in the community has opened itself, there have been evidences of an elevation and dignity of character, which do honour to the Irish name.

The regeneration of Ireland is, therefore, on every principle of humanity, a thing ardently to be wished ; and, to the most eligible means of effecting it, one would suppose that the efforts of the British government, guided by the councils and the energies of all her philanthropists, would be earnestly directed. No sacrifice of immediate interest or of local power, one would think too great to heal the wounds, and to accomplish the reformation of six millions of people, inhabiting one of the finest portions of the globe ; and constituting, as it ever must do, such an important integral part of the British empire. The sacrifice, however costly, would be but temporary. The immense result of increased order, intellect, happiness, and consequently, of revenue, may, in some measure, be judged of, by adverting to the example of Scotland ; and contrasting the present state of that country with

its condition at the period when the two crowns were united.

The British government is now in the enjoyment of a peace, which, we may reasonably indulge the hope, will not very soon be interrupted. To what object could the nation turn its vast resources, more worthy of its character and dignity, and more promising of the happiest effects, than the redemption of so many of its subjects from the miseries of a hopeless and debasing poverty—from the slavery of prejudices, which sink them, in point of happiness and virtue, below the natives of the forest, or the heathen of Asia, now so much the objects of Christian enterprise. Surely, to release such a people from their burdens, to rescue them from the mental darkness which enthrals them, to break in upon them with the light and warmth of true Christian charity, and to make them feel a due respect for themselves, and for the characters which they will transmit to their children, is a concern more deserving of British benevolence than the conversion of the pagans of the east. I mean no reflection upon those who deem it right to extend their Christian labours to the followers of Bramah, and to the islands of the South Sea; but where, it may be asked, is there a field for beneficent exercise equal to that which lies at their own doors? Where can hearts be found that will respond with a more lively gratitude, to the kindness that shall put an end to their oppression, and elevate them in the scale of moral worth?

Education is the great lever by which the numerous obstacles to the happiness of Ireland must be finally removed; and it is cheering to observe, that this powerful instrument of reformation has obtained an

entrance. The government has manifested much liberality to institutions for the promotion of schools in Ireland. Some of these deserve the highest praise for the judicious manner in which they employ the funds entrusted to their care : others have been guilty of enormous abuses. But were these funds to be greatly increased, and placed in conscientious hands ; were premiums offered to teachers, upon every demonstration of liberal and enlightened exertion, especially among the Catholics ; and, above all, were the disabilities removed which place the Catholics at such a vast distance from those political, civil, and social attainments, which enter so naturally into the desires of every member of a Christian community, and a free government, I can conceive no reason for believing that a new spirit and a new ambition would not be speedily infused into the great bulk of the nation ; and those deep-rooted prejudices and malignant feelings, which never will yield to political authority, resign themselves, almost unconsciously, to the power which works by love.

18th. We landed early this morning at Holyhead. The town is small, and apparently in a state of decay. Its situation is pleasant, at the head of a small bay ; but its insular situation, and the want of trade, prevents any increase ; and the small advantage derived from the Irish packets seems scarcely sufficient to preserve it. I observed in the town a small national school. After breakfasting at the inn, and paying at least half a dozen fees to stewards and sub-stewards, porters, custom-house men, and servants, I took a seat in the Chester coach, with three inside passengers, a Captain P. and two ladies, who all proved to be

agreeable and genteel persons. Holyhead is a small island, separated from the island of Anglesea by a shallow water. The surface of the latter is rough and rocky. Micaceous schist and greenstone appeared to be the predominant rocks.

The mansion and grounds of Lord Anglesea make an imposing appearance from the road. A statue has here been erected to him, in consequence, I was told, of his having lost a leg at Waterloo.

We passed the river which separates the island from Caernarvonshire in a boat; but a superb bridge is now in hand, which, it is supposed, will be one of the finest in the kingdom. Had time permitted, it would have given me great pleasure to visit the copper works at the Paris mountain in Anglesea. This mine has been very productive. The ore is obtained with much greater facility than in Cornwall. It is not, however, a very rich ore. A great deal of brimstone is obtained in smelting the copper pyrites, and prepared for sale. Bangor, in Caernarvonshire, is a town of an unusually neat and comfortable aspect. The road, for a considerable distance, lay chiefly on the margin of the Irish Sea, and exhibited, occasionally, a truly bold and beautiful scenery, reminding me of some parts of the Napoleon route. I observed, in one spot, what evidently appeared to be columnar basalt.

This part of Wales is very mountainous and stony. The formation is principally clay slate; but in one region through which we passed, mountain limestone was the prevailing rock. Our attention, in one place, was directed to a singular cavern, which extended quite through a mountain.

The town of Conway is most romantically and beautifully situated on the river of that name. It is surrounded by a wall, on which are several embattlements still remaining. On the river side is an ancient tower of singularly fine appearance. It was built by Edward I. in 1284, and was a place of great importance to the English crown in its early contests with the Welch. It is now a magnificent ruin, with eight vast towers still standing, surmounted by turrets. Several pointed arches of the roof are also entire. This castle is now held by a private individual from the crown, who pays a rent of 6*s.* 8*d.* and is bound by his lease, to furnish one of the government ministers with a dish of fish whenever he passes through Conway. Conway was formerly remarkable for its pearl fishery, but this no longer exists. The river at full tide, is one of the finest in England. In a church of this town, is a monument which records the interment of Nicholas Hooker, gentleman, in 1637, who is said to have been the forty-first child of his father by Alice his wife, and himself the father of twenty-seven children !

At Abergely, a town in Denbighshire, the people were coming from meeting, which afforded an opportunity of observing their dress and appearance. The women, generally, wear hats of fur, precisely like those of the men. Their complexions are fine, and among them were a large proportion of handsome faces. At another place the children were just issuing from a Sunday school, with Bibles in their hands. On requesting leave to look at some of the Bibles, I found they were in the Welch language. The neat and cleanly appearance of these children, furnished

a remarkable contrast with those of some of the towns through which I have lately passed, on the opposite side of the channel. But it is a consolation to believe, that the most powerful of all the instruments of reform, education, is there also at work ; and that its effects in the progress of time, must become obvious in the improved habits and morals of the country. At the town of St. Asaph, in Flintshire, the same decent appearance of the Sunday school children occurred.

We passed on this road the seat of a gentleman, who, I was informed, was some years since a clergyman living on £30 a year. He married a young lady whose patrimony consisted of part of a barren mountain, which they were on the point of selling for £700, when it was ascertained that it enclosed a mine of copper. The sale was broken off and the mine put into operation. He now enjoys from it an *income* of £25,000, and the estate on which he lives was purchased for £200,000. My authority for this remarkable instance of honest, worldly elevation, was Captain P. my fellow passenger, who appeared to be a person of great intelligence and candour, and well acquainted with the circumstance.

The evening was approaching when we arrived at Holywell, a town which has been remarkable ever since the days of monkish superstition, for a copious spring of water which rises in it, called St. Winifred's well. This saint, according to the legend, was a beautiful and devout virgin, who lived in the seventh century. A young prince attempting to offer her an indignity, she fled toward the church for safety. Enraged by disappointment, he overtook her and struck

off her head, which bounding like an elastic ball down the hill, passed through the door of the church to the altar, where her friends were assembled. The impious stroke, however, proved most fortunate to the inhabitants, for a stream of water immediately gushed out in a clear and copious current. Another saint who was present, snatched up the head and joining it to the body, it was, to the astonishment of all, immediately reunited !

The stream is sufficiently remarkable to excite the astonishment of the credulous, and was, so far, a fit subject for monkish invention. It issues from an aperture in a rock, at the foot of a steep hill, with a uniform velocity, and so copiously, as to discharge, it is said, eighty-four hogsheads of water in a minute. It flows rather more than a mile to the sea, and in its way turns the machinery of nearly a dozen extensive mills. The town of Holywell is of considerable extent, and contains many good houses. Over the well is a polygonal building, with various sculptured images, erected several years ago.

We arrived at Chester about half an hour before midnight, and found the inn in a bustle, and crowded with company, on account of the assizes. It was with some difficulty that I procured a bed.

19th. Chester probably retains more of the genuine antique, in its houses and streets, than any town in England. It is completely enclosed, and the wall kept in excellent preservation, and flagged on the top, of sufficient width for two persons to walk on it abreast. I went the circuit before breakfast, and have seldom enjoyed so highly a morning's exercise. The extent of the wall is more than two miles. On one side of

the flagged walk, there is a wall, breast high, and on the other a wooden railing. These effectually secure the passenger, in his aerial perambulation, from falling to the ground, while, from his elevated pathway, he has a charming view of the surrounding country. The weather was very fine, the fields and meadows exceedingly verdant and luxuriant, and the pear-trees in full blossom.

The town of Chester is nearly square, and contains 19,000 inhabitants. Its interior is grotesque and ugly. The principal streets seem to have been dug out like canals. Many of the shops are elevated one story above the street. The passenger mounts up-stairs, walks under a covered passage in front, the length of a square, cheapens the goods, and descends at his pleasure. The houses consist of an uncouth mixture of brick and wood. A narrow bridge, of singular structure, leads over the Dee, on the east side of the town. The river, or rather a new river artificially cut through the sands, is navigable for ships of 350 tons.

The great antiquity of this city is unquestionable, not only from its actual appearance, but from numerous Roman relics that have been from time to time found in digging. It would require some stretch of credulity, however, to admit the assertion of one of its topographers, and which, he says, is fully authenticated; that the ancient name of the city was Neomagus, so called from Magus, son of Samothis, son of Japhet, its founder, 240 years after Noah's flood!

After breakfast, I took a gig, and with a gentleman at the inn, who wished to join me, went to Eaton-Hall, the splendid residence of Earl Grosvenor, about three

miles from Chester. The present mansion was built about six years since, on the ruins of a former. Its style is the modern Gothic, and hence, though grand, it has not the venerable and imposing aspect of an ancient edifice. The hall is very large, and contains two pictures by West, both Scripture pieces. The library is extensive, and contains a choice and costly selection. The dining hall, drawing-room, and billiard rooms, are all sumptuously finished. The windows are of superb execution, some of them containing painted glass, and the furniture of the rooms is in a corresponding style of elegance and costliness. The pier glasses are of the largest size that have been made, the Earl being one of the owners of the Ravenhead works, which are believed to be the most complete manufactory of looking-glass plates in the world. The cieling of the rooms are particularly fine. The stair-case is a highly wrought piece of workmanship, but, I should think, too much carved and fretted—too wide a departure from the chasteness of a rich simplicity to please a refined taste. The park and grounds are exceedingly pleasant, the Dee, which is here a pretty stream, running through them.

Anxious to reach Liverpool, on my return to Chester, I took the coach for that place, with a company of no less than twenty persons, inside and out; among whom was a family who were on their way to Liverpool, in order to embark for the United States.

20th. My first care, on arriving here, was to secure a birth, which my friends had selected for me in the Albion, a new and beautiful ship which replaces the Pacific, in the line of packets that sail monthly between New-York and this port. It was very agreea-

ble to meet here again with an interesting circle of friends and acquaintance, after a separation of nearly a year.

The excellent example which has been held out in the management of female prisoners at Newgate, in London, by the Ladies' Committee, has been productive of good fruit in various places. A similar association has been formed here, and I had the pleasure to-day of attending two of the committee in their regular visit to this prison. About 50 female prisoners were present. We found them collected in one large apartment, and all standing, while the matron was reading to them a portion of the Bible. They were quiet and attentive, and when the reading was finished, went to their respective duties of sewing, knitting, and spinning, without disorder. Their crimes consist chiefly of thefts and vagrancy. The care which is taken by the committee and matron, to inculcate sentiments and habits that will lead to returning virtue, cannot but be in a great measure effective. However hardened in evil practices and callous to the emotions of shame and repentance, many of them may be, it can scarcely happen but that a considerable number will derive, from the instructive and serious conversation and persuasive admonitions of their kind and amiable visitants, (some of whom, I believe, attend the prison daily,) impressions that will awaken good resolutions, and lead to compunction and amendment. The simple reading of one or more chapters of the Bible, with such remarks upon their contents, as will naturally suggest themselves to a feeling mind, anxious for the good of others, affords a simple and admirable means of awakening feelings to

which these poor depraved objects may have long been strangers. The habits of order and industry to which they are subject, while in the prison, must of themselves have a useful tendency. Some of the work done here, as well as in Newgate, consists of neat articles, executed by the needle, and sold to visitors and others. Two-thirds of the proceeds go to the prison, and one third to the prisoners on their discharge. There is not at present any profit on the labour, but rather a loss.

21st. The few days which were to elapse prior to the sailing of the *Albion*, enabling me to make a hasty excursion to some of the lakes; after spending the morning in the revival of several friendships, I took the evening coach for Kendal in Westmoreland. We stopped at Preston to tea, and continued during the night through Lancaster and Burton, and reached Kendal about the dawn of day.

Waiting only to receive the instructions of a friend, who kindly called upon me in answer to a note of introduction, I ascended the coach for Ambleside, distant twelve or fourteen miles; and enjoyed, during a fine morning, a ride along the interesting scenery of the Windermere lake. We passed Colgarth-house, the country-seat and favourite residence of the late Bishop Watson. Its situation appeared to be remarkably rural, but without much show of ornament or elegance. The coachman informed me that he had lived two years with this extraordinary man, and pronounced a homely, but hearty eulogium, upon the honesty of his principles, and the firmness of his character; and, at the same time, a satire upon those who have the disposal of places and pensions. "If

he'd been a man to say one thing and do another," said he, "he'd been a greater man in the world than he was." In this residence the bishop was very attentive to his farm; and his agricultural improvements are said to have been worthy of the imitation of every Westmoreland farmer.

Ambleside is a small market-town, or large village, on the sides of a mountain, where the valley opens to the head of Windermere. It is an ancient place, and has very little of modern comfort in its general appearance; but some of the houses being covered with white cement, and several of them neatly enclosed, there is in its whole aspect, viewed at a little distance, a rural sweetness not often excelled. It contains one or two good inns. After breakfasting at one of them I hastened to Rydal Mount, the residence of W. Wordsworth, the lyric poet, about two miles from Ambleside. The mansion is neat, but altogether unostentatious, and not very large. Its position is one of the most charming; at a short distance from the head of Windermere, overlooking the lake, the village of Ambleside, and the wild undulations which spread themselves on each side of this beautiful water. Behind, and on each side, rocks and hills are piled irregularly, and streams of water, tumbling over precipitous channels, give an air of enchantment to the scenes which this poetic describer of physical and moral nature has chosen for his residence.

On reaching the house the servant girl informed me he had gone out on a walk with his family, and would soon return; but wishing to reach a distant place before night, I gave my letter of introduction to

the maid, and requested her to go after, and present it to her master. He soon entered, and calling me by name, received me with as much affability and kindness, as if I had been an old acquaintance. His wife too, who soon came in, manifested the same unceremonious hospitality; and notwithstanding my recent meal, insisted on spreading the table, and giving me a cold cut before I left them. Wordsworth is, I should judge, about fifty, or fifty-five, of rather a grave aspect, strong features, and easily susceptible of kindling into an expression of benevolence. He entered, without hesitation, into a conversation on America, on our literature and politics; on poetry, and various other topics which incidentally presented themselves. Finding that my time was short he proposed a walk, and conducted me over the grounds to a situation which commanded a view of Windermere and Rydal waters, and thence to a romantic bridge, on a stream which falls, in a fine little cascade, among the rocks, in front of which is an harbour bearing the date of 1617, and still in good repair. It is a spot to which even a Milton might have fitly resorted, to wait for the most lofty inspiration of his muse, had he been blessed with a temporary enjoyment of external vision, and anxious to derive from the objects around him, impressions, the most appropriate to the solemnity of his theme. We stopped to look at a cottage, belonging to S. T*****, of St. Peter's College, Cambridge, to whom I am indebted for my introduction to Wordsworth. It is on a rustic mound, commanding a view of both the lakes. A part of the oaken furniture of this cottage, curiously and

grotesquely carved, appears as if it might be at least coeval with the arbour just mentioned, and have owed its origin to the taste of the same individual.

On taking leave of the interesting scenery and family of Rydal Mount, where I spent a truly delightful hour, W. kindly offered to walk with me to Ambleside. His conversation is replete with sound remark and didactic wisdom. Its most peculiar trait is a sort of epic measure, which I could readily imagine was derived from those habits of thought which are requisite to the plotting and framing of a long poem in blank verse. Whatever reviewers may say, or have said of this writer, there has ever, to me, been a charm, both in his subject and manner; and, although he sometimes condescends to play too long with the baby-tools of his art, it is obvious that his mind is adequate to the most correct and elevated conceptions of human passion. If there is less of "fine frenzy" in his thoughts and descriptions, than in those of some of his cotemporaries, there is enough of the sublime and the tender, the pathetic and the moral, of the power of imagination and the force of language, to establish his claim to the merit of genuine poetry; and while the scope of his writings remains true to the best principles of humanity, he can scarcely fail, I think, to have an admirer in every reader of taste and feeling.

He expressed regret that the society of Friends were so generally inclined, as they are in England, to resort to cities and engage in trade; for he thinks their doctrines and manners are much more congenial with the simplicity of rural occupations; and

that in a country life, there is much less danger of their being betrayed into a dereliction of principle, than in the contests and competitions of mercantile pursuits. In common with most of the philanthropists I have fallen in with, he is anxious that our government should pursue a course that will give permanency to the institutions on which it is founded; but he entertains apprehensions of its stability, in a great measure, from the presumption, that men, who, under the garb of patriotism, have performed acts of service to the country, and conciliated the feelings of the nation, will, from the thirst of ambition and the pride of power, strike at the root of liberty, and introduce disorder and confusion. The proceedings of a certain general in the Seminole war, appear to have left strong impressions upon his mind, of danger from this quarter; and there are certainly many persons, taking into view the conduct of this individual in relation to the Indians, that will not wonder at those impressions.

The little stories of Barbara Lethwaite and Harry Gill,—W. informed me, are founded on fact; and the incident of “We are seven,” occurred to him in Wales. As an agent of the government, in the local concerns of the country, this gentleman receives an income, as I have been informed, of £500 a year.

Taking a post chaise at Chapman’s inn, Ambleside, I ascended a lofty hill, from the top of which was a remarkably fine view, on the west, of Windermere and the village of Ambleside, and toward the north, of Haws-water, and the high hills in the vicinity of Ullswater. The descent towards the last named lake is rugged, but the scenery on entering Patterdale, at

the head of the lake, and indeed the whole region in the vicinity of this beautiful water, must delight the eye of every traveller, whatever country he may have previously visited. We stopped a few moments in Patterdale, at Dobson's inn. In this house, as I afterwards learned, Southey, Scott, and Sir H. Davy once lodged, during an excursion among the lakes. It happened on the same day, that Elizabeth Smith, (so justly celebrated for her piety and literary acquirements,) had stopped with her sister at this inn, also to repose during the night; and happening, unconsciously, to get into the room which was destined for the poets and the philosopher, they sat up so late in writing and sketching, as greatly to incommode the gentlemen. The latter, after a long trial of their patience, not wishing to send them a direct request to remove to their own room, had recourse to the expedient of calling the hour, like watchmen. They separated from the inn, without seeing each other, much to the subsequent regret of the parties, when they respectively found who their inmates had been.

The road on the margin of the Ullswater, led me through Gowbarrow Park, for the distance of about three miles. This extensive park belongs to the Duke of Norfolk, and is said to contain 1800 acres of land, and 600 deer, besides great numbers of sheep and cattle. A tower, erected by one of the late dukes, called Lyulph's tower, at a little distance from the road, is an object which renders a landscape, naturally wild with wood, mountains, and water, still more romantic. It is an edifice in the Gothic style, with turreted corners and battlements. Ullswater is of an irregular shape, about nine miles

in length, and in some places three-quarters of a mile broad. The adjacent mountains sometimes approach the lake, and at every turn, a new prospect with a fresh variety of scenery opens to the eye. Several of the more beautiful spots on the margin of the lake, have been ornamented with gentlemen's seats, and are occupied either transiently or permanently, by those who love retirement amidst the solemn stillness of rugged nature. One of the pleasantest of these is Watermillock, the seat of Jonathan Scott, Esq. In approaching the village of Pooley Bridge, at the outlet of the lake, the attention is arrested by the view of Dunmallet, a conical mount on the left, of considerable elevation, and of so true a figure as to appear like an immense artificial erection on the top of a high hill. It is covered with young trees. The mountain of Hellerfell, near Pooley, seems to shut up the valley we have just passed through, and to give a parting wildness to the region of Ullswater.

I met with a kind reception at the house of a friend, T. W*****, near the village of Yanwith, with whom I staid all night. All that unaffected hospitality, offered with the most ingenuous simplicity of heart and manner,—and conversation flowing from a mind poetically alive to the beauties of nature, and religiously alive to the impulses of benevolence, and stored with a great variety of local and interesting anecdote,—could contribute to beguile the evening hours,—was here enjoyed. My host was well acquainted with the principal characters of the lake country. He had been an intimate friend of the late Elizabeth Smith, who, with her mother and family, had resided for some time on the shore of Ullswater. His account of

her, confirms the published statements of her extraordinary attainments in literature and science, of the energy of her character, and the amiable simplicity and sweetness of her disposition. Regardless of fatigue, she would climb to the top of a high mountain with her drawing implements, in search of a fine landscape, with as much zest as the most persevering hunter in the pursuit of game. With one of her sisters, she went, on two successive days, to the top of Helvellin, to feast her eye and imagination with the luxury of its Alpine scenery. She drew with uncommon skill. My friend showed me several of her performances, which she had given him, as memorials of her friendship. One of them was taken in a place so precipitous, that she could support herself only by his assistance; for he had been fond of accompanying her in those mountain rambles, though he confessed that she was more adventurous than he. One anecdote respecting her, proves the strength, as well as delicacy of her mind. Being on a visit at Bishop Watson's, the latter, who was a good mathematician, offered one evening to a gentleman present, an algebraical problem, with a request that he would furnish a solution of it the next morning. Elizabeth, from what passed between them, caught the conditions of the problem, and learning from the gentleman in the morning, that he had not been able to solve it, she presented him with a solution of her own, with a request that he would show it to the bishop, without saying a word respecting herself. The bishop was highly pleased with the solution, and gave the gentleman all the credit which he thought he deserved.

My friend W*****, lives on a small farm, and in a style of the greatest simplicity. But the labour of his fields does not prevent the exercise of a benevolence of feeling which opens the way for an extensive enjoyment of the social relations. With the family of the Earl of Lonsdale, whose magnificent seat (Lowther Castle) is in this neighbourhood, he is on terms of friendly intercourse.

23d. On the road to Penrith, I passed this morning a curious elevation called *Arthur's round table*. It is of so great antiquity that there is no tradition when, by whom, or for what purpose it was made. It is of an exact, circular figure, except that, on two sides, an opening is left, level with the plain. The trench, dug to form the elevation, is inside, and is about ten paces wide. The whole circle is 160 paces in circumference. It is conjectured by some that it is an ancient tilting ground, within which disputes were settled by single combat. One thousand spectators might have assembled on the outside to witness the feats.

The town of Penrith is seated in a pleasant open vale, and surrounded by a fertile and well cultivated country. Its population is about 4000. The houses are built of red freestone, and, in general, covered with blue slate, making a much better appearance than most other towns of equal extent in this part of England. The inn at which I stopped was remarkable for good order, and prompt attention to the wants and comforts of travellers.

A seat on the top of the coach from this place to Keswick afforded me an excellent opportunity of viewing the surrounding country. Indeed, to the traveller whose object is, *en passant*, to see all he can.

this mode of conveyance is much preferable to a post chaise, when the weather will admit of an outside seat. From the coachmen, and other persons generally met with on the top, much local information may be obtained. The very dialect and intonations of these people are often very amusing. In adverting to the friend at whose house I had passed the night, the Keswick coachman said much in his praise; and, in reference to the entertainment which his conversation affords: "*he has,*" said he, "*a heap of good crack in him.*"

Part of the country between Penrith and Keswick is a dreary moor, but the beautiful vales of Grisdale and Threlkeld, and the rugged heights of the *Saddle-Back* mountain on the right, and a distant view of Helvellin on the left, compensate the eye for the want of immediate cultivation. On ascending the hill which overlooks the town and vale of Keswick, no other emotion than that of delight can well be felt. The enchanting diversity of hills and gently swelling undulations, of houses and gardens, verdure and foliage, of groves and glassy lakes, interspersed with the richest cultivation, and embosomed in mountains whose tops are often enveloped in clouds,—gives to this vale a poetic charm, and has called forth from travellers some of the finest descriptive pieces in the English language. A portion of the lakes of Derwent and Bassenthwaite, between which this valley is extended, are included in this delightful view.

Near the top of the hill which commands this interesting prospect is a remarkable piece of antiquity, generally regarded as a druidical temple. It consists of a rude circle of large stones, some upright, some oblique, and others fallen down. They are unhewn,

but of a tolerably regular shape; and are so placed, as to include a circular, or perhaps an oval space of about thirty paces in diameter. At the eastern end a small enclosure is formed within the circle by ten stones, making an oblong of seven paces by three, having, it is conjectured, been the place where the altar was erected.

On alighting at Keswick I inquired for the house of Robert Southey; for it is in this poetic region that the laureat has fixed his residence; remote from the confusion and irritations of the metropolis; but holding a daily intercourse, by the rapid convenience of the mail, with that great fountain of intelligence, and deriving all that he may wish for, from the prolific stores of Paternoster-Row. His house is situated on an eminence, with a fine prospect before it; a plain and unimposing, but comfortable mansion. I was introduced to him in his library up stairs, and was met with an ease and politeness, which distinguished at once the man of kind feeling, of good sense, and good society. He has still an air of youthfulness in his countenance, and his manners are lively and animated. The conversation soon turned upon literary subjects and literary men. He spoke of *****, *****, and *****, of the United States, whom he had recently seen; praised their talents and acquirements, and said he would not wish to see finer men from any country. In reference to the United States, he spoke like every intelligent and liberal minded Englishman I have met with, in the most favourable terms of our progress and prospects as a nation. He joined me in deprecating the flippant sarcasms and ill-natured strictures of certain English

travellers in America, and also the manner in which their books and the subject of the United States in general, are treated of by some of the reviewers. He thinks the Edinburgh and Quarterly Reviews are, upon the whole, injurious to learning. By the decisive tone which they hold, they create prejudice. They prevent, in a great degree, the reading of those books which they do review; and indirectly lessen the reputation of those they do not. The taste for genuine poetry, and the talent for poetic composition, he thinks, have greatly increased with the progress of general knowledge; and he has no doubt that there are twenty poets now living, each of whom, had he lived some ages ago, would have established a high reputation. He spoke highly of Scott. No person, perhaps, has afforded amusement to so extensive a portion of mankind; and, as his writings are all at least innocent, he will have nothing to regret in the close of his literary life.*

It is obvious, that in expressing this opinion of the celebrated Edinburgh author, the laureat regards romance as within the province of true Christian literature. This opinion he doubtless holds, in common with a vast majority of the reading world. But I am mistaken if there are not also many, who believe that a taste for works of mere fiction, and an habitual perusal even of the best of those novels, under which the press, both in England and America, now groans, are extremely prejudicial to the progress of truth; and especially to the predominance of the Christian virtues in the hearts and lives of men.

* See a review of one of the Waverly novels, in the 21st volume of the *Christian Observer*. (1822.)

In adverting to the state of Ireland, Southey ascribed a large share of the distresses of the peasantry, to the exuberance of the soil and the cultivation of potatoes. This root, now so much the staple of support in that island, he considers as the bane of Irish happiness and prosperity. The extreme facility which it affords to the lower classes of procuring a subsistence, scanty enough indeed, but yet sufficient for all the purposes of mere animal existence, lays the foundation of that character of indolence and improvidence, which brings in its train so much misery and crime. Were the soil less fertile, and the people dependent upon grain and pulse, habits of industry and economy would become more absolutely essential, and these, in their turn, would react upon the mind and morals of the country.*

There are few men, I should presume, in England, who are spending their lives more classically—in a more agreeable literary retirement than Robert Southey. His library occupies several rooms. The fertility of his mind and the activity of his researches, appear to leave him at no loss in the selection of a subject for the employment of his genius; and the different productions of his pen are too well known to need any remarks from me upon their various merits. His early life was spent in Bristol. It was in that neighbourhood that Coleridge, Lovell, and himself, all fellow commoners at Oxford, attached themselves

* On the affairs of Ireland I have read, with great satisfaction, "Views of Ireland, moral, political, and religious, by John O'Driscoll, Esq." published in the present year. (1823.) It cannot fail, I think, to enlighten the mind of every reader who feels an interest in the prosperity of Ireland. It combats, however, the opinion, that the miseries of Ireland, are in any degree owing to potatoes.

to three sisters of a respectable family, whom they married; and, in the ardour of youthful anticipation, and with those high-wrought notions of worldly happiness, which always have much more of poetry than of sober judgment in them, they resolved, with their wives, to embark for the United States, to settle themselves in a retired spot on the banks of the Susquehannah, there to plant an Arcadia, and there to spend a life of primitive simplicity and Elysian enjoyment. Happily for their comfort, and for the credit of English literature, the scheme was given up.

Southey is about forty-five years of age. His person is of the middle size. His looks and manners are indicative of frankness and amiableness of character. In the same house, but in separate apartments, the two sisters of his wife, the widow of Lovell and the wife of Coleridge, the poet, also reside. The former of these two, who lost her husband soon after marriage, has employed herself in instructing the daughters of her brother-in-law. Coleridge lives, I believe, altogether in London; the separation from his wife arising more from his eccentricities and singularities than from any breach of family agreement. His two sons remain with their mother; and I have understood that Southey, with a liberality that does him the highest honour, takes upon himself the responsibility of their education, and that the utmost harmony prevails in the family.

He has had the laureatship about five years. It is, in his hands, an office of more dignity than it has ever been. He is not under the servile necessity of producing, either with or without inspection, an ode on every birth-day occasion; but is at liberty to yield,

as his genius may direct, to such impulses of loyalty and affection as the muses may enkindle. The Butt of Sack, I have been informed, has been commuted for £200 per annum.*

In rising to take leave, after an hour of delightful conversation, Southey proposed to walk with me on the margin of the lake. We had a charming ramble of half a mile, along a path which presented, at various points, beautiful views of the Derwent-water. This end of the lake is diversified with islands, some of which are adorned with elegant mansions. Boats, neatly painted, and adapted to excursions of pleasure, are kept by many of the inhabitants of Keswick. The grounds through which we walked, belonged formerly to the Duke of Derwent-water, but becoming confiscated to the crown, they were appropriated to the support of Greenwich Hospital, to the funds of which they still contribute.

We walked to a point which gave us a view of the southern termination of the lake, and the entrance of Borrowdale. The scenery is wild and beautiful, reminding me of Lake George in our own state, but more subdued and enriched by cultivation. Skiddaw, one of the highest mountains in Cumberland, rises a little to the north of Keswick. Its summit is about 3000 feet above the level of the sea, equalling in point of elevation, the highest peak of the highlands through which the Hudson passes, just below

* I ought to mention that none of the particulars just mentioned, respecting the private life of this gentleman and family, were obtained from himself, but from other published sources. My visit was too short to enable me (had it in any case been justifiable) to make inquiries relative to his domestic history; although these are circumstances certainly not the least interesting in the lives and characters of eminent men.

Newburgh. Southey informed me, that he had made an excursion to the top of this mountain with Sir Humphrey Davy. Near the summit, the latter discovered a mineral of rare occurrence, (if I recollect rightly, the chiasolite,) found only in clay slate, which appears to be the prevailing formation of this mountain. The hills and fields in this region, are now bedecked with a great variety of wild flowers, the moisture of the climate contributing greatly to the abundance of those beautiful productions of nature.

Our walk along the Derwent having extended as far as my limited time would admit, we returned to one of the village inns, where I parted with a person whose conversation and suavity of manners, more than the poetry and the prose which have placed him among the most prominent of living authors, have left an impression which I shall delight in cherishing.

From Keswick I proceeded to Ambleside, sixteen miles. This ride is one of the finest in England; and, indeed, excepting the valley of the Arve, I think it is not surpassed in the variety and picturesque beauty of the scenery it affords, by any road of equal extent I have passed over. It wants, it is true, the majesty and sublimity of the Alps and the Jura; but there is enough of mountain grandeur to enkindle feelings of admiration, and at every turn of the road there is some fresh trait to inspire delight. From the top of Castle-rigg, which we first ascend, by a steep road, the eye, on turning round, is saluted with a parting view of the vale of Keswick, sweetly embracing, in sinuous folds, the glassy water of Windermere, while its venerable church and whitened houses, gleam through the foliage, and beautifully diversify the

picture. Descending into a green valley, we pass *Leaths-water*, a pretty, irregular sheet, stretching along the foot of Helvellin, about four miles.

This latter mountain is one of the most mighty of the whole lake region, disputing the pre-eminence with Skiddaw. Its top is still covered with snow, but whether a recent snow, or the remains of its brumal store, yet unmelted by April suns and showers, I could not determine. The shores of the little lake last mentioned, are generally naked and desolate, though a rocky knoll covered with wood, sometimes presents itself. Masses of rock hang out from the mountains; others have reached the bottom and are at rest in the lake.

This lake becomes so contracted in the middle, that a bridge of three arches spans it, and forms a communication between the neighbouring inhabitants. From the valley of *Leaths-water*, the road ascends gradually to an elevated pass, nine miles from Keswick, which marks the boundary between the two counties, Westmoreland and Cumberland. This ridge is the site of a *kairn*, or heap of stones, called *Dunmail raise*, and is said to have been placed there to perpetuate the memory of the last king of Cumberland, defeated near this spot by Edmund, the Saxon monarch, who put out the eyes of the two sons of his adversary; and for his confederating with Leolin, king of Wales, first wasted his kingdom, and then gave it to Malcolm, king of the Scots, who held it in fee of Edmund, A. D. 944 or 45.

At a short distance from this rude memorial of ancient barbarism, the eye is refreshed by an opening in the mountain, which discloses the circular vale of

Grassmere with its beautiful little lake, containing a fine island, and exhibiting, on its indented margin, the fruits of neat but humble industry. The vale is about four miles in circumference. On a low promontory, which pushes far into the lake, is the village of Grassmere, formed of white houses, with the parish church rising in the middle of them. Corn fields and meadows, trees, hedges, and cattle, fill up the space from the edge of the water to the mountain's side. No wealthy owner has attempted to lord it over this happy vale, by a stately mansion and the pomp of affluence, but the whole scene forms such an entire exhibition of quiet rusticity, and happy poverty, as to have obtained for this remarkable enclosure, the epithet of the "*vale of peace*."

On gaining the next eminence of the road, another lake of smaller extent presents itself, called Rydal-water, containing two small islands, luxuriant with trees, shrubs, and verdure.

Rydal-Hall, the seat of a wealthy family, is finely in view from this part of the road; and on the left, between it and the lake, is Rydal Mount, the residence of W. Wordsworth, already mentioned.

I stopped just to take another adieu of this family, whom I found collected in the lawn in front of the house. They met me with unaffected kindness, and we parted with a friendship which might not have discredited an acquaintance of years. W. took a seat in the car (which I had engaged at Keswick) and rode with me to Ambleside; and, when there, conducted me to a cascade, at a short distance from the inn. It is formed by a stream which issues from the mountain which overhangs the village, and falling

in two divisions over a considerable precipice, produces a pleasing effect. It might be regarded, in consequence of its double cataract, as a feeble imitation of the Falls of Niagara; a circumstance which served at least to introduce a topic of fresh interest in the mind of such a guide and companion as Wordsworth;—and such was the flow of conversation, and so interesting the subjects which presented themselves in rapid succession to his mind, in this second ramble through the woods of Windermere, that it required no small effort to agree to part.

At Ambleside I engaged a post-chaise to take me to Kendal, the charge for which was one shilling and sixpence per mile. The horses with which I was furnished were finer than any I have before seen in England, in the service of the public roads.

My friends at Kendal, with characteristic kindness, had made arrangements for my accommodation; and the comforts of a hot supper at the house of one friend, and a bed at that of another, concluded the adventures of *two days in the lake country*, which I should wish to preserve on the tablet of memory, in colours unfaded by time and circumstance.

LETTER XL.

Manchester, 4th month, (April) 26, 1819.

MY DEAR ****,

The town of Kendal is seated on the little river Kent, which, rising among the lakes flows into an arm of the Irish Sea. It contains about 9000 inha-

bitants ; but the principal street, as in most of the ancient towns, is extremely narrow and inconvenient. The church is Gothic, with a square tower. The manufactures, principally cottons, are pretty extensive. The poor are provided for in a large workhouse at the north end of the town, which contains 55 separate rooms. A bridewell, or house of correction, stands near the workhouse,—an essential appendage, in every place, to those large and comfortable mansions called workhouses, where the poor are amply fed and clothed, and allowed to work just as much as they please.

The ruins of a large castle are conspicuous on the opposite side of the river,—one of those strong holds, which served as a necessary protection to the feudatory lords of the soil, whose possessions depended on the bows and sinews of their dependants. Can there be a stronger evidence of the benign influence of Christianity, than the fact, that these massive edifices are every where in ruins, except in the few instances, in which they are preserved as relics of ancient times and customs ?

The Society of Friends have here a large and very commodious meeting house, recently erected at an expense of nearly £9000. There are few places in England, in which this society holds a more respectable rank. The members (among whom I made this morning (the 24th) a number of calls) are exceedingly intelligent, their houses, in several instances, are supplied with good libraries, and there appeared to be a more than ordinary share of cultivation in their manners, and style of living ; without any obvious abandonment of the peculiar principles of their profession ; but, on

the contrary, several individuals of the Society in this town, are regarded in London and elsewhere, as among the most worthy and exemplary members of the yearly meeting. There are more frequent evidences of literary taste and intellectual cultivation among the Friends of Great Britain and Ireland, than in those of America, even if the comparison be confined in the latter country, to those who inhabit cities and towns; and the effect is, as might be expected, decidedly in favour of learning; not only as it respects the exterior habits, the mind and manners of the man, but of the religion he professes. But in this comparison I allude only to general facts. Among us, there are numerous individual instances of attainment and manners, that may well compare with any that can be found in this country. Useful learning is doubtless making a more rapid progress than it ever has done on both sides of the Atlantic; and I cannot but hope, that the period has nearly arrived, when the opinion, that ignorance is an auxiliary to piety, or that sound learning and science are unfriendly to the highest interest of man, will be completely exploded from this society.

The habits of mind which the domestic education of our children naturally produces,—an exemption from the gayeties and fashionable amusements of life, which consume so much of the time and thoughts of others,—are all favourable to that abstraction which is requisite to scientific and literary improvement. And were pursuits of this kind more generally attended to,—with less regard to the ostentation of learning, or the purposes of mere literary amusement,—but with a benevolent view to the utility of science and the welfare of mankind, it is difficult to

conceive a more powerful means, by which the real interests of humanity would be promoted.

But the opinion appears to me, to be still too prevalent here, (though less so than at home,) that learning is adverse to religion. This idea is perhaps common to certain portions of every religious sect; but in the early history of the society of Friends, those that embraced the doctrines of Fox and Barclay, were subjected to so much suffering, from persons, both in church and state, whose authority was, in a great measure, founded upon their learning and worldly acquirements—they saw, and do still see, so much of the perversion and abuse of knowledge, especially in matters of religion, it is not surprising that the revolt should produce a reaction, that carries the mind greatly too far towards the other extreme, and lands it in the belief, that the only rock of safety, is an ignorance of those things, that are thus so grossly misapplied.

The only effectual remedy for this error, and indeed for all the errors that we imbibe from early inculcation, and from the institutions of society, is *Education*. If an extensive survey of human life, must lead a religious or a philosophical observer to the conclusion, that there is a real difference in the chances of happiness and respectability, in the lot of different men—then as certainly must the inference be drawn, that it is education which chiefly decides this difference. A right education, I cannot, therefore, but consider as one of the most momentous concerns of benevolence, regarding man both as a social and religious being. This concern, I should hope, will become more and more an object

of attention and solicitude, on the part of the society of Friends, and liberal and enlightened views increase among them, until they become instrumental in establishing a system of instruction more conformable to reason, truth, and religion, than those which are now in use.

Among the visits I paid this morning, there was one which I cannot easily forget. This was to John Gough, the blind philosopher. He resides about a mile from the town with his family, consisting of his wife and several children, some of whom are nearly grown up. He has been blind from infancy, scarcely remembering, as he informed me, ever to have been sensible of the light of day. His principal occupation, is that of a private teacher of classical and mathematical learning. He prepares young men for the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and such are his attainments and such his success in imparting knowledge, that some of his pupils have become senior wranglers at Cambridge, one of the highest distinctions of that university, so celebrated for the depth of mathematical science, to which its students are encouraged to aspire. Such attainments in a person totally destitute of one of the senses which we are apt to consider as the most important, are truly remarkable; and evince in a striking manner the power of genius,—the inherent energies of the mind, when its faculties are happily concentrated upon the means of their own enlargement and cultivation. His person is large, and the lines of his face are strongly marked. His perceptions are remarkably quick, his memory strong, and his conversation vigorous and intelligent; but feeling the force of his own superior

intellect and attainments, and not being able to judge of the feelings of others by one of the surest criteria, the infinitely varied expressions of the countenance, his remarks, like those of the celebrated Saunderson, are made with a freedom, which occasionally subjects him to the danger of making enemies instead of friends. It is not only in pure and mixed mathematics that his genius has displayed itself; he is a good linguist, an able chemist, and is so well acquainted with botany, that when a British plant is put into his hands, he can at once determine what it is.

It was botany, he informed me, that first prompted him to the study of language. The Linnean sexual system he considers very inferior to the natural methods, and of these he greatly prefers that of Jussieu. He walked with us to Kendal, to dine with me at the house of a brother-in-law. On the way, I discovered, that, in addition to the sciences I have mentioned, he is an excellent ornithologist. He enumerated the different species of migratory birds, he knows their respective periods of approach and departure, and can easily distinguish them by the sounds they utter. The wonderful perfection of his remaining senses is thus fully demonstrated; for without a touch the most exquisite, it would be impossible to have extended his researches into so minute a science as botany. The acuteness of his hearing is shown, by the readiness with which he discovers the stature of a perfect stranger, by the first resoundings of his voice. He can recognize his acquaintance, by merely listening to their respective breathings. His thirst for knowledge has been limited only by time and opportunity. The papers which he has published in several literary

journals prove his acquaintance with the different departments of physical and experimental science.

In adverting to the various capacities of men for acquiring knowledge, he informed me that, having heard so much of the self-taught acquisitions of a lad at Penrith, he had been anxious to have an opportunity of examining him, and that he had recently been gratified. The child was only nine years of age. Not doubting, from the entire simplicity and boyishness of his manners, that his attainments had been greatly overrated, he took him between his knees and asked him a plain question in arithmetic. The child appeared, at first, as if he thought his inquisitor was trifling with him, but answered the question without hesitation. Other arithmetical questions were then asked, all of which he solved without difficulty, even in the higher parts of the science. Algebra was next proposed, and with this he showed himself equally familiar, as far as the resolution of the higher equations. With the leading propositions of Euclid he was well acquainted, and had entered upon the study of fluxions. During the examination he solved two cases of spherical trigonometry; and being asked if he had been taught the application of algebra to geometry, he answered in the affirmative, and immediately proved it by the solution of several problems. He reads correctly and gracefully, writes a good hand, and has made some progress in English grammar.

By his manner of working the questions the lad proved that his processes were the result of reflection; and, in reality, dependent, not upon memory, but upon a skill and judgment in mathematics that

would be creditable to any person of mature age, and, in all probability, unparalleled in a child of such tender years. This is quite a different talent from that almost instinctive power of combining simple numbers, which you will remember to have witnessed in little Colburn, the Vermont calculator. The Penrith boy is the son of a journeyman shoemaker, and is indebted, in the first instance, for his knowledge of figures to his father, who, having a taste for mathematics himself, encouraged, as far as in his power, the surprising talent of his child. What may not be expected from such a genius, if life and health be granted for its progressive cultivation?

After dining with a respectable family, and in company with a man, whose surprising acquirements, under all the disadvantages of total blindness, will doubtless place him hereafter among the most remarkable geniuses of England, I took the coach for Lancaster, parting with my Kendal friends under the liveliest impression of their kind and generous attentions.

It may not be amiss to remark, that at Kendal a museum is kept by — Todhunter, in which the mineralogical and other natural and curious productions of Westmoreland and Cumberland are kept in considerable variety, both for exhibition and sale. The finest specimens of purple fluete of lime were here shown me that I have ever seen. They are from Aldstone Moor.

The distance from Kendal to Lancaster is ten or twelve miles; the road, during the greater part of it, lying on a new canal. The country is rather hilly,

but well cultivated. The hedges are rapidly putting forth the verdure and blossoms of spring.

We passed through Burton, on the borders of Westmoreland; a small town, but containing an excellent inn. I observed, on the printed bills of the landlord, a tabular view of the road, and places through which it passes, with the distances accurately stated. This is a great convenience to travellers, and worthy of imitation.

I arrived at Lancaster about six, and soon found myself in a circle of friends. The rites of hospitality were immediately offered me, and of course accepted; for if any thing can of itself enhance, to the highest degree, the pleasure of a visit in a strange place, it is, to find oneself domesticated with persons, who, though entire strangers, soon enable one to feel, by their affability and kindness, and by manners similar to those with which we are the most familiar, upon the easy and sociable footing of old acquaintance. It must, I think, be admitted, that there is something in the plain mode of address, and in the peculiar phraseology of the Society, which goes more directly to the heart, and excites more immediately the benevolent sensibilities, than the most studied politeness of fashionable life. Much of this feeling is, doubtless, to be ascribed to the spirit of fraternity which that phraseology immediately awakens. But, independently of this, does not the use of the singular number convey, of itself, more kind and friendly feelings than the ordinary mode of speech? The French use it (*tu et toi*;) altogether to their children; husbands and wives, and intimate friends, to each other.

To deviate from it under these circumstances would indicate coolness or unkindness.

Escorted by one of the family with which I was quartered, I took tea, and spent the evening with the brother and sister of my agreeable fellow-traveller, B. D*****, with whom I crossed the Alps, and reluctantly parted at Genoa.

25th. The town of Lancaster was a sort of head quarters of the Society of Friends, in the earliest period of their history ; but, from the persecutions to which Fox and his adherents were exposed, their numbers in this part of the country never became very great. There are now in the town about seventy families.

After attending the meeting both morning and afternoon, one of my friends obtained permission for me to visit the castle, the most remarkable of the ancient buildings in Lancaster, and long since occupied as a prison. It stands upon a beautiful eminence, on one side of the city, and was unquestionably founded by the Romans. The green mount on which it is immediately situated, is thought to have been artificially raised by that people. In digging into it some years ago, a Roman silver denarius was found at a great depth, and the eminence has been surrounded with a deep ditch, said to have been made by command of the emperor Adrian, in the year 124, when a garrison was placed here by his order. They also erected a tower towards the west for their better security. In the year 305, Constantius Chlorus, father of Constantine the great, built another tower, facing the town, both of which are still standing. The present structure is generally supposed to have been built by Ed-

ward III. but some parts of it seem to be of a higher date, as there are three styles of architecture very evident in the present edifice. This station was one of the first the Romans had in these parts, and from its importance it was probably the last they abandoned. It served for a great length of time as an effectual check against the fierce incursions of the Caledonian tribes, and was the object of their peculiar hatred. But in the end these barbarous clans, following close upon the helpless Lancastrians, deserted by the Romans, sacked and destroyed their town and fortifications. The Saxons, arriving soon after, raised on the ruins, the town that now remains.

The castle, at present, serves the purposes of the county prison and the assize courts. The alterations and repairs occupied upwards of sixteen years, and £40,000 were spent upon it before their completion.

We entered through the beautiful gateway of John de Gaunt, and were shown through the different rooms and yards of the castle by an officer appointed to attend us.

The whole circumference of the castle is 409 yards. The court we first entered contains nearly an acre of ground, and is appropriated to debtors. The north side is allotted to criminals, and consists of seven day rooms, with sleeping cells, and six yards converging to a point, at which is placed an octagonal tower of three stories. This tower is occupied by the turnkeys, and commands a complete view of the several yards. In every yard is a reservoir of water, supplied by an engine-pump, which is worked by the prisoners. The female prisoners are entirely separate from the men.

The whole is kept remarkably clean; and a mild system of government is established throughout. Fetters are never used except in extreme cases, and no chains are to be seen. It was intended that the cells should be solitary, but, from the number of prisoners, they are obliged to admit more than one to sleep in each of them. Their food is bread, gruel, and potatoes. Those who behave well have also a weekly mess of broth with beef in it.

They are well dressed; the tried prisoners being distinguished from the untried; the one wearing red and blue, and the other yellow and blue.

This prison contains an excellent infirmary, and a chapel in which service is performed four times a week. A library of religious books is also kept by the chaplain, for the benefit of the prisoners.

With regard to labour, there are two classes in the castle. The untried prisoners and those who are sentenced to death or transportation, have no work assigned them, and remain idle, while the others are condemned to labour. The principal employments are weaving, shoemaking, tailoring, &c. and they thus manufacture all the clothing used in the prison. The prisoners are allowed one-third of their earnings for their own use, of which third they receive three-fourths weekly, and one-fourth when they leave the prison. Of those prisoners who pass their time in idleness, a much greater proportion come back again after being discharged, than of those who are employed. In the one case, they have constantly before them a useful and innocent object of attention; in the other, they have nothing to dwell upon but their own corrupt imagi-

nations.* There are at present about 250 prisoners in the castle. One of the apartments is still called the Quaker room, in consequence of its having served as the place of confinement of George Fox and his friends. It is, I believe, one of the most spacious and airy apartments in the castle.

The western front is taken up by the court and jury rooms. The beauty and convenience of the crown and *nisi prius* courts can hardly be exceeded. The wood work is oak, carved into beautiful Gothic; the furniture is of crimson moreen. In these rooms are several full length portraits. The crown court is capable of containing 1700 people. The roof is supported by five clustered columns, forming Gothic arches, and the groins which spring from them, ramify into a stone ceiling of open work, of singular beauty and fashion.

On one side of the castle is the platform, where the prisoners who are capitally convicted, receive their awful punishment. Four poor creatures were, a few days ago, dismissed from this place to another world. Notwithstanding the frequency of these appalling exhibitions, especially at this castle, they continue to attract crowds of people, from the country as well as the city. A sense of disgust and horror, at these spectacles, and a conviction of the total inefficiency of public executions, as a means of prevention and reformation, appear to be increasing among the reflecting and judicious portions of the

* For several of these particulars and remarks, I am indebted to the valuable printed notes of J. J. Gurney of Norwich, made during his visit last autumn, with his sister Elizabeth Fry.

community in this country, and give room to hope, that a reformation of the present barbarous code, is making a sure, though silent, progress, in the mind of the nation.

This city, or rather borough, stands upon the river Lune, about seven miles from its estuary at the Irish Sea. Ships of moderate burden can approach the town. The custom-house is a small neat building, with a portico supported by four Ionic pillars, with a plain, but beautiful pediment. Each pillar is fifteen and a half feet high, and consists of a single stone. In none of our large cities,* though with ten times the population of this borough, and a still greater proportion of trade, can such a specimen of taste as this be found, on the part of the general government. But if our habits of economy and simplicity, are essential to our preservation from the vices and extravagances of the governments of Europe,—if the absence of ornament be an indispensable requisite in the security against a grievous national debt,—and the plainest architecture, inseparably connected with freedom from crime;—long, long may it be, before the fluted columns and the fretted domes of Europe, shall be considered as worthy of our imitation. But on this subject doubts will be entertained; the question of national taste and liberality, in connexion with national happiness and virtue, cannot be so easily decided.

The town is connected by navigable canals, with the Mersey, Dee, Severn, Thames, Avon, and other rivers of England. We went to see the aqueduct, or passage of the new canal from Kendal, over the river

* Baltimore is now an exception.

Lune. It is one of the most noble specimens of hydraulic architecture I have ever beheld. It cost with the embankments, £50,000.

The population of Lancaster is about 10,000. It contains a National, or Bell's school—a large and handsome building;—and one on the Lancasterian plan. Its alms-houses and public charities are also numerous, many of them being founded altogether by the legacies of wealthy and charitable citizens.

The plan of the town is very irregular, and many of the streets are crooked and narrow.

26th. After closing the past day with several social visits, I took a very early leave of my friends, this morning, and ascended the coach for Manchester. The morning was clear, but the wind was easterly, and rather cool. Among the passengers were several respectable and intelligent men, from one of whom I learned, as we were walking altogether up a long and high hill, that we had among us a personage of a description which I had never before fallen in with. This was a regular and professed *Jack Ketch*. He was, upon the whole, an ill-looking fellow, but more from a certain stupidity of countenance, than from any expression of ill nature. Curiosity prompted two of us to get alongside of him, and ask him a few questions; and, to my surprise, he did not appear to be at all ashamed of his employment, but rather to value himself on the distinction that was shown him, for he was occasionally sent for, he said, to different parts of the country, as his services were wanted, and he went from London to Lancaster, and other places, where hanging was to be performed. The price which he received for every professional job was three guineas.

He had just been at Lancaster, in attendance at the castle. On being asked whether the performance of such a task did not hurt his feelings—he said no, it did not pain him, because it was a thing that must be done, and the prisoners always forgave him before he turned them off.—Poor wretch ! it was obvious, from his looks and manners, that he was a person naturally deficient in sensibility, and that what little understanding he possessed, had been worked up into a belief that an attention to this calling was the exercise of a virtue.

One is surprised at the quantity of wild game which is exposed for sale in the different market-towns of this island. The coachmen have frequently in charge, quantities of rabbits, pheasants, &c. which they convey from individuals in the country to their friends in the metropolis and other places. We passed one farm, this morning, from which I was informed that £80 worth of hares had been sold during the last year.

Arrived at Manchester, I met at the house of my friend D*****, at Ardwick Green, a cordial reception from himself and his excellent wife,—not the less so from having been a fellow-traveller of his brother, whom I before alluded to when at Lancaster, and who is still in Italy.

After an absence of nearly a year, the return to such a family, seems like an approximation to my native land, and to the warmth and endearments of kindred affection. But I must not forget that there still rolls between me and those that have the strongest claim upon my sympathies, a vast expanse of ocean, that cannot be encountered without some solicitude.

LETTER XLI.

Liverpool, 5th month, (May) 1st, 1819.

MY DEAR ***** AND *****,

The Lancasterian school of Manchester is admitted to be the largest, and one of the best organized free schools in England.

The house is a plain edifice of brick, and is capable of seating in one room, nearly 1100 children. It was built by subscription and donation, and is supported by public bounty. Both sexes are accommodated in one general apartment. It was opened in 1813. and the principal teacher, J. H. P*****, who relinquished his charge not long since, has been uncommonly successful in organizing and training the pupils. A book is kept in which every visiter is requested to record his observations relative to the order of the school, the progress and behaviour of the pupils, &c. These testimonials are almost universally flattering to the teacher. Among them I noticed that of Dr. M****, of our city, who was very favourably impressed with the plan and improvement of the school. The arithmetical performances of some of the boys really surprised me: and they served to show how rapidly and dextrously the mind, as well as the body, may be made to move by diligent and judicious instruction. About half a dozen boys were called up before me, and such questions as the following were put to them, which they were to solve altogether by a mental exercise, without slate, or paper, or making any use whatever of their hands.

If a grain of gold is worth $7\frac{1}{2}d.$ what will be the value of a pound? Ans. £180.

If an ounce of silver is worth £4 16s. 2d. what will be the value of a grain? Ans. 2d. 1qr. $\frac{37}{80}$

If 1 lb. of sugar is worth $7\frac{3}{4}d.$ what will be the value of 1 cwt.? Ans. £3 12s. 4d.

If 1 cwt. of sugar is worth £5 16s. 4d. what is that per lb.? Ans. 12d. 1qr. $\frac{9}{7}$

If $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. is gained by selling cheese, at 15d. per lb. what did it cost per cwt.? Ans. £6 6s.

If cheese, which cost £4 3s. 6d. per cwt. is sold for $7\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. what will be the gain or loss per cwt.? Ans. 13s. 6d. loss.

If 15s. per ton is gained by selling coal at 10s. 4d. per cwt. what did they cost per ton? Ans. £9 11s. 8d.

These questions, with some others of a similar kind, were arranged on a printed paper, with the sums, or prices, all left blank. I was requested to fill up any of those blanks, privately, with any prices I pleased, and then announce the question. This being done, the boys each strove to give the answer first; and, in almost every instance, two or more of them answered at once, and in less time than a man would take to count six, distinctly. The replies were, *generally, immediate.*

These boys, I believe, were all monitors; and had been for some time under the special instruction of the master, separately from the school.

The desks, or fixtures, in this school, are on iron frames, and the benches are firmly attached to them. Many of the desks are designed both for writers on sand and on slates, by having a lid to fold over the sand. Pieces of tin, with the alphabet stamped upon them, are also employed in teaching beginners their letters, and to spell easy words. The advantages of such institutions as this, more especially in places like

Manchester, which so abounds with the children of indigent labourers, all will admit to be incalculable.

The evening was spent greatly to my taste, in a small circle of literary friends, among whom was the philosophic D*****. It was at once amusing and instructive to observe the simplicity and composure with which he listened to my information relative to the many inquiries and remarks respecting him, which were made by some of the most distinguished philosophers of Paris, Geneva, Milan, &c. The integrity and simplicity of his character, are as remarkable as the originality of his mind, and the acuteness of his perceptions on subjects of science and philosophy.

27th. Having no where seen, in England, one of the national, or Bell's schools, in operation, my friend D. conducted me this morning to one of the two which are established in Manchester. The mode of instruction differs essentially from the plan of Lancaster, and certainly possesses some features that are very valuable. It is less mechanical, and it exercises, to a greater extent, the judgment and understanding of the pupils. Much stress is laid upon an acquaintance with the Scriptures; and the method of instruction is better devised for making the children thoroughly acquainted with them. It is a more expensive mode than the other. Instead of printed forms, or lessons, which, when suspended, serve a whole class, each pupil, or, at least, every two, must have his book. The system, I should imagine, requires more skill and management on the part of the teacher, and is not so easily reducible to monitorial government. Each of the two schools contain about 300 boys, and as many girls; the sexes being entirely

separated by an intervening wall. The children made a very decent appearance. The floor is of brick, to prevent noise, and, probably, to promote cleanliness. The girls are taught in this school not only to sew and knit, but to *cut out* the more necessary parts of wearing apparel. This is an important feature in this charity; for too many females, especially among the labouring classes, are totally ignorant of the art of making the most simple article of dress.

We stopped to look at the apparatus of an extensive manufactory of cotton goods. The steam engine was of 72 horse power, and was supplied by five boilers, four of which were in constant use. The beauty and perfection of the machinery, and the quiet and steady operation of so powerful an engine, cannot be viewed without an emotion of reverence for that genius which can so control the operations of nature, and combine, with such wonderful harmony, so many apparently discordant and opposing movements, and bring them all into subservience to the use and convenience of mankind. Can it be possible that any man can contemplate such a train of machinery—can witness effects so vastly remote from the original impulse, and regard all this as the offspring of thought and reflection, and yet remain a materialist! Surely, in reference to such a mind as that of a Watt, or an Arkwright, as well as that of a Newton, the question maybe triumphantly asked.

“ Can a soul,
Of such extensive, deep, tremendous powers,
Enlarging still, be but a finer breath
Of spirits, dancing through their tubes awhile;
And then for ever lost in vacant air?”

It is, I believe, a truth, that when the mind has, in early life, been trained to pious reflection, and the feelings as well as judgment, brought calmly to bear upon the Christian revelation, that the most profound disquisitions of science, serve but to strengthen the impression, and to assimilate the character more intimately with that simplicity, which characterises the Christian faith.

28th. Took leave of my friends at Manchester, and came to Liverpool.

29th. The morning was spent in packing up, and preparing for embarkation.

At R. B*****'s, I had the pleasure of meeting at dinner, with W. Roscoe, Dr. Trail, and other Liverpool gentlemen, together with several of those who are to be my fellow passengers in the Albion. Most of the company were the same whom I met at Green-Bank, soon after landing a year ago, and I hardly need to add, that the lapse of such a year, diminished nothing of the intellectual pleasure, which such a meeting afforded. It is thus in Liverpool, that one meets at the tables of the busiest merchants, with literary and scientific men; and the host himself, by his previous education, and by the tastes which he continues to cultivate, is prepared at once to enjoy such opportunities of intellectual relaxation from the toils of business, and to turn the conversation upon topics interesting to all.

This combination of literature with commercial industry and enterprise, in the mercantile classes of this city, I am of opinion, is no where equalled. In London, Paris, and other places, where each pursuit is prosecuted with the greatest vigour, the classes are

in a great measure, distinct from each other ; and if there are a few who blend the habits of the merchant and scholar, they are only rare examples ; proving, however, that these two spheres of life are not incompatible. But in Liverpool, the great mass of the population, are directly or indirectly concerned in commerce. Manufactures are scarcely known. To their ships, and their trade with all parts of the world, they look for employment, maintenance, and wealth. When, therefore, we find a place like this, affording, not a tardy and meagre, but a prompt and generous encouragement to literature and the elegant arts, and perceive that the same individuals that are engaged in deep and heavy mercantile speculations, are also to be found during the recess of business, at the Lyceum, the Athenæum, or the Philosophical Institution, poring over the literary journals, or attending lectures on science,—and when we learn, moreover, that in few places, however remote from commerce, are there more numerous private literary associations,—the conclusion appears to be unavoidable, that the ardour of speculation, and the eager thirst for business, which are so apt to absorb the whole mind and faculties of those who make trade and commerce the sole object of their care, are here most judiciously tempered and regulated, by an attention to subjects which elevate the mind to higher aims: and such an example tends to impress the important lesson, that it is not wealth, but intellect, character, and virtue, which make the highest distinction between man and man.

There is a spirit of liberality in this place, of the highest order. It manifests itself, not only in the

number and endowment of its humane and literary institutions, but in the promotion of every improvement which may facilitate commercial industry. I have already adverted to the docks. Of these there are three kinds. The principal are the wet docks, which receive those foreign ships that have large and heavy cargoes to receive and discharge. In them the ships are afloat at all times of tide, the water being retained by the dock gates. The next are the dry docks, so called because they are left dry when the tide is out: they generally receive the vessels that are employed coastwise. The others are the graving docks, which admit or exclude the water at pleasure, and in which the ships are laid dry for caulking and repairs.

The immensity of labour requisite to complete these vast excavations, will be at once perceived, when it is stated, that the six principal docks, (including Prince's dock now in hand,) with their respective passages and basins, occupy an area of more than sixty acres. Others are in contemplation, which will extend the whole surface thus excavated, to seventy-four and a half acres. The quays or sides of these docks, as well as the whole facing on the river, is of solid stone masonry. Its great superiority over wood, is experienced not only in its durability, but in its greater cleanliness and beauty. The gates which open and shut these docks are very spacious. Those which enclose the king's dock, for example, are forty-two feet wide and twenty-six feet deep. At two of the docks are beautiful cast iron bridges, which, turning upon swivels, are made to move with great ease and expedition, for the passage of ships.

To clear the docks of mud brought in by the tide, a dredging machine, moved by a steam engine of ten horse power, works with so much effect, as to raise fifty tuns of mud per hour. It is carried away by barges, and deposited out of the reach of the tide.

The number of ships and the corresponding amount of dock duties, have rapidly increased since the commencement of the present century. The ships entered last year, amounted to 6779, and the dock duties, to £105,308 11s. 11d.

The corporation of Liverpool, is one of the most opulent in the kingdom. Its nett revenue the last year was £54,464, and its expenditure £39,012. The whole township and manor belongs to the corporation, by whom it was purchased of the Molyneux family about forty years ago. The leases which they grant, are for three lives, and a term of twenty-one years after the death of the survivor. Under this regulation, the inhabitants do not hesitate to spend large sums of money in building, in the confidence, that the corporation will, in case of the death of any of the lives, renew the lease by nominating others. To this it is induced by interest, as a great part of its revenue arises from the sums paid for such renewals.

Liverpool is supplied with water by means of three steam engines.

30th. After breakfasting with a friend at Everton, who resides in a charming situation, and is surrounded with an interesting family—the day was devoted to various valedictory calls and letters.

May 1st. The morning has been very wet, but the punctuality which the packet owners wish to esta-

blish in the time of their departure, is not to be interrupted by heavy rain. We shall doubtless, therefore, embark in the course of the afternoon,—thus completing to a day, and almost to an hour, ONE YEAR since I first placed my foot upon European ground. How the time has been spent, what I have seen, and what have been my impressions, I have detailed to you, I fear, with too great prolixity in the preceding pages.

LETTER XLII.

Ship Albion, 5th month, (May,) 2d, 1819.

To ——— & ———, *London.*

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

AGREEABLY to my promise, I shall preserve and transmit to you, (if we are favoured to arrive in safety at our destined port) such memoranda of the events of our voyage, as may appear most worthy of your notice; but such, you well know, is the monotony of an Atlantic passage, it is not probable that they will contain much to interest you beyond those occurrences and remarks that may derive some little importance from the partialities of friendship.

About two o'clock yesterday, the letter bags of the ship were taken from the counting house of C—— B——, and Co. and with them went the captain and myself, bringing up the rear of those that are to constitute our floating community for some time to come. We boarded the *Albion* in a small boat, as she was under sail in the river, struggling in vain against a

head wind,—the first that had blown from that adverse quarter for several weeks preceding. The day was very wet, and the cabin nearly full of passengers, no less than twenty-eight having taken births in it; and nearly as large a number was quartered in the steerage.

We dined at a late hour still a-breast of the lower part of the town, and unable to make any advances against the wind. This unfavourable commencement did not however, prevent us from relishing an excellent dinner, and conversing cheerfully on the ship, its accommodations, and the prospects before us. This is the Albion's first return voyage. She replaces the Pacific, which has become too inconvenient for the packet trade. The owners have spared no expense in the comfort and embellishment of this vessel, which replaces one of the most successful ships which has ever been employed between the two ports. The cabin glitters with mirrors, cut-glass lamps, polished brass, and varnished mahogany. The whole is divided into state rooms, each containing two births. There is the disadvantage, however, of only one general cabin, which forbids selection in case the habits of one part of the company should prove unpleasant to the other. Captain Williams commanded the Pacific when I crossed in her last spring; and I find, likewise, the same cabin boys that were then our attendants. Notwithstanding the heavy rain of yesterday, a number of the friends of the passengers accompanied them on board, and remained in the ship till near night.

I retired rather early, slept soundly, and was awakened this morning by a call from the captain

upon those who wished to write by the pilot, to prepare their letters; and a number of us were soon ready to embrace this last and interesting opportunity of bidding farewell to some one or more of our friends, in or near the place of our embarkation.

The wind, early this morning, freshened in our favour, and the pilot left us at 8 A. M. clear, as he said, of all the shoals. We were rapidly wafted down the channel: but the motion was such that we had plenty of elbow room at the dinner-table. Of the five females which belong to our cabin party, not more than two were able to leave their births, and the same may be said of nearly half the men. This was the first day of the week:—but so little were we acquainted with each other, and so little settled to our present mode of life, no proposition was made for any religious observance,—nor do I think it could have answered any valuable purpose. The sailors were busily occupied in adjusting the cumbrous materials on the deck, and arranging every thing in snug order for the passage. We doubled the island of Anglesea long before night, and when the day began to close upon us, the mountains of Wales were dimly seen on our left.

3d. The wind continued to push us briskly along the channel most of the day, and, in the afternoon, the ship took her nautical departure from St. David's Head, as the last of her land-marks; having now to trust, during her long and trackless journey, to the needle, to the luminaries of heaven, and to His providence who has conferred on man the wonderful power of converting these things to so interesting and important a purpose. The last glimmerings of the Welsh coast vanished with the day, and with it our

last view of European land. A crowd of reflections too multiform for utterance, accompanied me to my pillow, and banished, for some time, the comforts of repose.

That the year which has just elapsed has been the most interesting of all the annual suns that have passed over my head, I ought not, perhaps, to assert; nor have I, at present, the courage to deny. It has, at least, been the most fruitful in incident, and but few of them of a kind, which have not added to the current of pleasing impressions, and to the amount of rational gratification. It has produced a rich store of materials upon which the faculty of reminiscence may hereafter be delightfully employed; and of all the mental powers which administer to our entertainment, busy memory claims the ascendant. Of the incidents of the past year, which she will cull with the greatest fondness, are those that immediately relate to the friendships which it has so liberally produced. Warm and animating will be the influence of those "gems of life," and as enduring as the power of memory itself.

4th. We are now fairly at sea,—but the wind has turned against us, and indisposed a very considerable proportion of us for the pleasures of eating and talking. My old sea habits are coming fast upon me, and I must make up my mind, I perceive, to be put upon the sick list, and keep my bed. Under these circumstances, we have but little chance of knowing one another.

9th (*First day*.) Continued head winds, and frequent, strong gales, keeping the ship perpetually and violently tossed, and about half the passengers closely

confined to their rooms, and many of them much indisposed: in this number is myself. About one o'clock to-day, the captain ordered the bell to be rung "for church," and, accordingly, several of the steerage passengers, and a few of those of the cabin assembled, but no one appeared who would undertake to officiate; and they separated, rather displeased, I thought, at being thus disappointed. I was too unwell, or I should have risen, and offered to read the Bible to them. What an advantage do those possess, who believe that by setting down in company, (however large or small,) and meditating in seriousness and silence, the solemnities of true worship, and the consolations of a divine communion may be experienced.

15th. An invariable succession of light airs, breezes, and gales, all from the *westward*, has been our allotment, since the last date. During the last few days, however, the weather has been generally pleasant, so that the greater number of invalids have found themselves pretty well restored, and have spent much of the time on deck, in social converse, and in such amusements as their limited sphere of action admits. We have, in the cabin, quite a variety of character—English, Scotch, Irish, and American; and, national prejudice apart, I must say, that I think our side of the house, as it is the most numerous, has also the superiority in point of attainments, intellectual and moral. Two of this number, P. of Virginia, and T. of Boston, I have, in our conversations, already described to you. It gave me sincere gratification to meet them at Liverpool, as I had before at Paris and Edinburgh, and to find that we were to be companions in the return to our native land. Few young men have ever

left the United States, better qualified by their previous education, to profit by the tour of Europe, and few, I will venture to say, have left behind them more favourable impressions. We have also in our American group, a young married lady, a native of New-York, whose husband is an Englishman, at present in the West-Indies. In consequence of a protracted illness, he was obliged to leave her in Liverpool, at the house of an intimate friend; and she is now embracing the opportunity of a fine season, an excellent ship, and good company, to return to New-York, where her husband is to meet her. She is amiable and accomplished; and, being still in rather feeble health, her settee, on the main deck, serves, in good weather, as a sort of nucleus, around which those assemble who are the best qualified, and most disposed, to devote their hours to literary converse and social reading.

16th. (*First day.*) Some of the passengers made an arrangement this morning, with the captain's consent, but without consulting the general wishes of the cabin, to have the Church service performed. As it consisted entirely of reading, none of the company thought it needful to object to the arrangement; but it was obvious that a different procedure, more simple, and better adapted to a diversity of professions, would have given more satisfaction. It was interesting, however, to observe, on this occasion, that a spirit of conciliation prevailed; arising, I should hope, from a mutual desire to promote the general harmony of our ship's company. This temper is, on all occasions, as far as consistency of character will admit, a real virtue; an evidence, at once, of a sound mind, and of

well balanced affections ; but, in situations like ours, it becomes of peculiar and paramount importance. Every person will admit, *prima facie*, that a good temper must be extremely desirable in a cabin companion ; but few can imagine, who have not experienced the trial, how much it is in the power of a few unaccommodating and perverse individuals, to mar the enjoyment of a whole company ; and to render a situation, which might be otherwise tolerably comfortable, or even positively agreeable, a place of grievous suffering.

19th. The weather continues pleasant, but the wind has been steadily ahead until yesterday, when it shifted a little to the eastward, but was very light. We have now nearly all so far recovered our spirits, health, and appetites, as really to enjoy the pleasures of the deck, and the ample comforts of the dinner table. I had scarcely an idea that I ever should, or could relish so highly the confinement of a ship, dancing on the broad ocean, as I have done these few days past. We have among us a good stock of books, in all the varieties of literature which our diversified tastes demand. The sky has been very fine ; and the air, though cool, is agreeable and animating. Some of our company, male and female, undertook this evening, by the instrumentality of an old violin, and a Scotch player, to “trip it, on the light, fantastic toe :” and fantastic enough it was ; for when the ship is bouncing upon the waves, as it usually does, it requires a constant attention to the principles of equilibrium, to maintain our stability in a plain straightforward walk. Sometimes, indeed, the motion is so easy, that a child can traverse the deck without the

least danger. Our ship proves to be an admirable sailer, lying so close to the wind, as to pass, easily, all the vessels that we have seen steering the same course.

We overtook and spoke, to-day, the English brig Concord, from Liverpool, bound to Halifax, out 25 days. Thus have we gained upon her a whole week, though she must have had fine winds, the first ten days after leaving port. We have seen an unusual number of vessels, coursing in different directions, but have not spoken with many. The fish, too, have been more numerously visible than in my former passage. Porpoises have frequently appeared; and three or four times the enormous whale has been seen, rolling his huge bulk over the surface of the deep, and blowing up the water, in copious jets, to the height of fifteen or twenty feet. They have twice appeared very near the ship, and once excited the attention of the passengers by their loud blowing.

21st. The weather still fair, but the wind again ahead. We spoke to-day the brig Friends, from Waterford to Halifax, out thirty-four days! full of passengers. This could not fail to inspirit us; for, considering the winds this vessel must have had during the forepart of her voyage, we may estimate our gain upon her at the rate of nearly two days to one. We are to-day in longitude $44^{\circ} 45'$, which, with the winds as they have been, affords a decisive evidence of the goodness of our ship.

22d. We had a heavy squall last night, which always occasions a bustle and noise on deck, and, generally, a heaving motion of the ship, calculated to intimidate those unacquainted with the sea. No great

alarm, however, was excited on this occasion; and the storm did not continue more than a few hours. A clear sky afterwards opened upon us, and our company were paraded, in usual good humour, on the deck; walking, talking, jumping, pitching dollars at a ring, drafts, backgammon, and the more certain, rational, and inexhaustible amusement of books. The wind sunk to rest towards evening, and we had to endure that most distressing of all sensations, the heavy rolling of a ship during a calm.

23d. It was announced to us early this morning that we were in thirty fathoms water, on the Grand Bank of Newfoundland; and the fact of our being in the important region of codfish, was soon demonstrated by the appearance of fishing vessels; one of which, a Frenchman, we boarded about midday; and, for a moderate quantity of snuff, tobacco, rum, and a few buckets of potatoes, our captain obtained as large a stock of good fresh fish as was sufficient for our purpose for several days. The temperature of the air and water, on the Banks, is strikingly lower than it was before we approached soundings. The general heat of the water in the open sea is about 66° , and on the Bank 45° . In consequence of this diminution of temperature, the region of the Great Bank is subject to dense and long continued fogs, arising from the condensation of the vapour contained in the currents of air, which flow over it from deeper and warmer waters. The Great Bank of Newfoundland is a kind of submarine mountain, stretching from N. E. to S. W. 150 miles long, and 50 broad; and at the distance of 25 leagues from the island whence it derives its name.

We yesterday sunk an empty bottle, well corked, to the depth of ninety fathoms. On drawing it up, the bottle was full of water; and the cork, though not inside the bottle, had been pressed nearly an inch further into the neck than we had ventured to urge it when empty. The water, in cases of this kind, must be forced into the bottle through the pores of the cork. The temperature of the water in the bottle was 43° , while that of the surface was 48° ; the air, at the same time, being $52\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ Fahrenheit.

This being the Christian Sabbath, there was no objecting to assembling in the cabin, at the hour appointed by the captain, (one o'clock,) for the purpose of some religious exercise; and, on a proposition being made that a portion of the Scriptures should be read, and afterwards a sermon, it met with no opposition. The Bible was assigned to me, and the sermon to *. *****; and the opportunity, on the whole, appeared to afford satisfaction.

24th. We have had in view, at one time, while on the banks, nine or ten sail of vessels, most or all of them fishermen. The quantity of fish, taken on this immense bank, which is every where, (excepting a small reef,) covered with water sufficiently deep for the largest ships, is enormously great. The Frenchman which we boarded yesterday, had been on the bank thirty days, and had taken 10,000 cod-fish. They are caught by hook and line, baited with *squids*, or young fish of various kinds, taken on the bank in nets. One ingenious mode of employing the hook and line is practised by these fishermen, which I had not before heard of. A strong line is passed under the bottom of the vessel, and being brought

over the deck, goes round a vertical wheel, to which it is so fastened, that by turning the wheel with a winch or handle, like a grindstone, the line is made to revolve. To this line hooks are fastened at regular distances. The bait is put on the hooks, on one side of the vessel, and the fish are taken off on the other, the line being kept in motion by the turning of the wheel. The fish are cleaned as they are caught, the heads are taken off, and they are packed in salt in the bottom of the vessel.

The bounty offered by the French government, in the prosecution of the fisheries, is, I am told, such as to give their vessels, at present, a decided advantage in the supply of the European markets. Our markets are furnished by our own fishermen, but they obtain their supplies much nearer home than the grand bank; chiefly at the isle of shoals, and the shoal of Nantucket.

Besides the vast advantage which the fishing trade affords as a means of support, and the supply of a cheap and wholesome article of diet, it has long been encouraged by commercial nations, as the best and most effectual nursery of hardy and skilful seamen. And, indeed, when one reflects on the great exposure, the series of privations, and the labour absolutely unavoidable in a continuance of two or three months on the banks, frequently in freezing weather, and in a small bark, perpetually agitated by the sea, and over which the waves are often sweeping with fury, no doubt will remain, that a man *thus* educated, will be likely to shrink from any of the hardships of a nautical life. The commercial advantages of the Newfoundland fisheries, are therefore immensely great.

Birds have been seen almost every day during the passage; on the bank, they are more numerous and various, than in deeper water.

27th. The same monotony of head winds and rough sea. We are advancing in our zig-zag course, from one to seven miles an hour, according to the wind, but last night we were becalmed, and remained stationary seven hours. The captain and myself each took an observation of the sun this afternoon, whence we deduced the true time, and agreed precisely in determining the longitude by the chronometer, at 58° W. Our latitude at noon was $42^{\circ} 10'$ N.

About two o'clock to-day, a meteor was seen by the captain and a number of the passengers, though the sun was shining brightly. It appeared at an elevation of about 45° , and passed rapidly towards the horizon, in an oblique direction. It was transparent, much resembling a globe of glass, with a short neck or train.

28th. Wind fresh ahead,—rate of going, from two to six knots,—weather pleasant,—sea rough,—whales appear,—appetites good, &c. &c. &c.

29th. Little or no change in the breezes, except that they are more gentle, and, perhaps, rather more ahead than yesterday. We must endeavour to console ourselves with the reflection, that though they are inauspicious to us, they are in reality “balmy zephyrs,” to those friends that inhabit the shores most adjacent to our present situation,—the land of the west. Indeed, what difference, as it respects our immediate comfort, whether the voyage has a four weeks, or a six weeks duration? What matters it where one's body is, while the mind is almost con-

stantly on shore,—*now*, in our native clime, ruminating intensely on the past, and anticipating the future; and then, visiting and revisiting, the places and the society we have so recently enjoyed in your “sea girt isle?” Various, indeed, are the emotions that impress the mind, while thus transported by fancy from shore to shore, from the old to the new world. The imagination, fleetier than “the swift winged arrows of light,” finds the Atlantic to be no barrier to its excursions, and alighting on whatsoever spot it pleases, freights its aerial car with its choicest materials, and transports them in a twinkling, to persons and places, which it shadows forth in all the luxury and mystery of anticipation. This is one of the glorious privileges of our being,—and must we not regard it as a strong pledge of our immortal capacities? Nor can I believe that these pictures of the mind, “by labouring fancy wrought,” are to be considered as unimportant and uninfluential upon life, character, and happiness. They derive their “hue and colouring” from the past, and they impress a “hue and colouring” upon the future. Thought is the germ of action; upon the incidents of the embryo acorn, depend the evolution and powers of the oak.

I can readily imagine, in reference to our present situation, that the reciprocal feelings of your government and ours, and the prevailing disposition of the British and American people, with respect to each other, must in some measure spring from musings, that are formed and indulged in, upon the Atlantic. There is certainly a measure of moral responsibility laid upon travellers, who perform those international visits, from motives either of interest or curiosity, and

who send forth their mental impressions to the world. Such sources of information, must furnish to a considerable extent, the elements, either of amity or discord; and if he is the most guilty of the crimes and calamities which follow in the train of war, who first blows the trumpet of open hostility, a share of reproach must surely attach to him, who scatters in his private path the materials of combustion, and by whose secret agency the contest becomes more rancorous and implacable.

It must be painful to the philanthropic traveller in both countries, to perceive, so clearly as he cannot avoid to do, the lurkings of national enmity; and, in the minds of individuals, who must have derived their feelings altogether from accidental sources. It is a feeling which resolves itself, in almost every instance, into unmingled prejudice; a prejudice, which, in every candid mind, would be loosened by more extended inquiry, and effectually removed by a due consideration of the relative circumstances of the two nations. It is not necessary that travellers should praise every thing they see. They cannot fail, indeed, in each country, to perceive many things that deserve to be reprobated. They may criticise and condemn, without swerving from the spirit of friendship and candour. But this is no reason why they should *hate*. Or, if they indulge in feelings of detestation for things that are in themselves detestable, how careful should they be, not to suffer this feeling to spread beyond the object which called it forth; and thus give the tincture of calumny to their whole narrations.*

* I cannot but think that the United States have been visited, within the last seven years, with an overwhelming share of such vituperative travel-

30th. A day of calm; but not of entire ease to those of us, who, as we approximate the shores of Columbia, feel the ties of nature and kindredship press more and more closely around the seat of life. Still, we have all a reasonable share of philosophic patience. The weather has been delightful to-day; and all hands have been basking on deck, in the animating beams of an American sun. We muster strong at the table, and act our parts heroically, for the fare is excellent. After *lunch*, the bell rung for *meeting*, and we took our stations on the quarter-deck. Most of the female passengers in the steerage, (amounting to half a dozen, or more) dressed in their "Sunday" ribbands, joined those of the cabin; while their mates, either not caring so much about the day, or less for their dress, were content to stand at midships, and catch what they could of the service. A chapter in the New Testament, one in Isaiah, and one in the Psalms, were read by a very respectable Caledonian New-Yorker; and then, using the capstan for a desk, while the captain held an umbrella over me, I pronounced the seventh of Dr. Chalmer's Discourses, in a most audible voice, striving to overreach the flapping of the sails, and the quacking of the ducks in the coops around the deck. The sermon went on finely;

fers. Some of these have most evidently been persons destitute of the qualification, and unfurnished with the means of judging with impartiality. But there are some, who have had both the ability and opportunity of estimating our infant institutions and unformed habits with correctness, who appear to have delighted as much in sarcasm as in truth. A few exceptions, honourable to human nature, have latterly appeared; among which is a series of letters, in a train of publication in the Christian Observer, commencing Jan. 1822, written by an English gentleman, who travelled extensively over the United States; and whose character and accomplishments evidently entitle him to the high consideration and confidence of his readers.

the women, at least, very attentive, (excepting one who had two children at her side) when, as I was getting into the pith of the argument, and was approaching the climax, orders were given to trim the sails. The preacher's voice was immediately stopped, and, in the room of it, were the *oh-hee-oh* of the sailors, and the rattle of ropes and pulleys. Order, however, was soon restored; and our exercises went on, without further disturbance. The polite and sober attention of the audience was quite remarkable; and I know not that the duties of the day could have been more becomingly performed.

We were diverted this afternoon with a shoal of porpoises, moving in a body, at no great distance from the ship; some of them very large, others of less size, and some very small. The latter would leap, occasionally, entirely out of the water, and were full of their playful tricks. These fish are supposed to furnish, to an experienced seaman, some indication of the weather. Such seems to have been the opinion of one expert sailor—as expert in seamanship, as in the art of glowing description:

In curling wreaths they gambol on the tide,
Now bound aloft, now down the billows glide;
Their tracks awhile the hoary waves retain,
That burn, in sparkling trails, along the main.
These fleetest coursers of the finny race,
When threatening clouds the ethereal vault deface,
Their rout to leeward still sagacious form,
To shun the fury of the approaching storm.

FALCONER.

As this creature is known, like the whale, to be viviparous, recognizing and feeding its own young, we could easily fancy his group to be a horde of the

wandering Arabs of the deep, consisting of parents, and their progeny, extending downwards through several generations. They were followed by birds, that continually hovered about them.

31st. This day completes our fourth week, and notwithstanding the almost constant prevalence of head winds, I would rather it should continue a fortnight longer, with our present freedom from complaint, than to get into port in one week with such weather and indisposition as fell to my lot in going out. But the wind has changed to the eastward, and we are this morning gliding along at the rate of eight or nine knots. The passengers have become pretty well acquainted with the more prominent features of each other's disposition and character; and it is curious to observe how some lessen and others rise, not only in individual but general estimation, in proportion as their peculiar traits of temper and mind develop themselves. We have five Scotchmen, three of whom reside in Canada. One of them has been to Hudson's Bay,—a sober, noiseless, good natured man, of more substance than show, perfectly unassuming, and perfectly neutral as it regards our entertainment, except that he has a good eye for detecting ships and whales at a great distance. The others are persons of greater pretensions. These Scotchmen are all returning to their homes, from a visit to their native land, perhaps on business, but probably, in a great measure, from that instinctive attachment to old Caledonia, to its hills, its porridge, and its hospitality, of which the enterprising and hardy emigrants, from that land of oatmeal and learning, can seldom divest themselves. Of the natives of old England

we have seven, besides women and children. One of them is a farmer who has got rich by ploughing and sowing on the estate of — Coke, in Norfolk, and is now on his way to America, for the sake of the journey, and to see how the grass grows there. But his wife was unwilling to let him come alone, and was unwilling to come herself, without her two little children; and so he, kind man, gave them all leave to come along, though he means to spend only a year, and has no intention of settling in America. They are very good sort of people, of sound sense, and plain, unassuming deportment. One of our Englishmen is a true John Bull in manners. Though a republican in principle, he was very much disposed to be important when he came on board, and for some days after,—but finding it rather *uncomfortable*, he at length assumed a milder tone, and has become quite reasonable.

Considering the motley texture of our cabin, the diversity and even contrariety of its composition, for we have two or three rather unpromising subjects, I think we have got along as harmoniously as we had a right to expect. Among the regulations which the captain laid before us for the government of the cabin, was one which prohibited politics as a topic of discussion or disputation. This has been pretty strictly adhered to, and has doubtless had a salutary tendency.

6th month, (June) 3d. The wind has befriended us more, I believe, during the last two days, than for an equal portion of time since our departure. Still it has been moderate, and our progress, though direct, not rapid. The weather is foggy and unpleasant. We have been on soundings, during the last twenty-four

hours, on George's Bank, and, of course, three or four days of good wind, would carry us through the Narrows, and add three more to the forest of masts which line the shores of the East River. But this is not our present prospect; for the wind has again shifted to the westward, and is blowing at a brisk rate, directly in our teeth. The captain too, as if we stood in need of such a sedative, tells us, that he was last year fourteen days in beating into port, after getting as near it as we are now. But happily we are not without resources. My fellow-passengers, —— & ——, have more than realized the expectations which a previous transient acquaintance had induced me to form of them. We are never at a loss for an agreeable and interesting topic, and with such shipmates, and such weather and health as we have all lately enjoyed, a voyage across the Atlantic can be no other than a pleasure. The American part of our company comprehends nine individuals, not one of whom, I believe, has done any thing to disturb the harmony of the cabin.

4th. *Evening.* The weather and wind has been the same as yesterday,—a mild, bright sun, and a gentle, cooling zephyr. Judge of our surprise, and, in some sort, of our exultation, on coming up this afternoon with the ship *Atlantic*, (a new American ship) which sailed eleven days before us. They have had, like ourselves a series of light head winds, calms, and fogs. We continued together much of the afternoon. Her mate came on board of us for a supply of one or two articles they were rather short of. They have twelve passengers in the cabin.

This being his Majesty's birth day, and a number of the passengers being his Majesty's loyal subjects, the captain gave us several more tarts and puddings than ordinary, and the wine was not restricted. Much was said in reference to the day,—but, in the end, it proved, that their loyalty, instead of being an allegiance to King George, was merely a devotedness to king ALCOHOL, which was evinced by the most prompt, and implicit submission to the dictates of his ministers — Port, Madeira, and Brandy. This loyalty was so vociferous, and in the end, accompanied with such uncouth and barbarous terms, and such wild and inconsistent doings, as greatly to scandalize the pure principles and mild demeanour of those of us who are good republicans; and I do hope that we shall arrive safely at our port before the fourth of *next* month, lest the inspiring qualities of that great anniversary, should inflict, upon those noisy monarchists, a severe retaliation.

5th. After obtaining some relief, (in a refreshing sleep towards morning,) from the midnight blustering made in *dishonour* of the old king, we find, upon ascending the deck this morning, that no change has taken place in wind or weather.

My lucubrations will not be valued the less, when I tell you, that I have been dipping my pen (in writing the greater part of it,) in a beautiful ink-stand that belonged to Madame de Stael. It appertains to my friend T. and was given him by the Dutchess de Broglie, (the daughter of Madame de Stael,) at whose house in Paris, he was a frequent visiter.

At breakfast this morning, the sound of *land*, spread animation through the cabin. It proved to be Mar-

tha's Vineyard, and in a few hours Gay Head, a remarkable bluff on that island, was a fine, conspicuous object. At one o'clock, a pilot-boat belonging to the island, boarded us; and our worthy ***** anxious to join his friends, after an absence of several years, engaged the boatman to take him to New-Bedford, where he will probably be landed before night. I gave him a letter to our friends there, and doubt not that they will expedite his journey to Boston.

The sun set this evening in a full blaze of radiant glory. The last effulgence of his horizontal beams, as he "bathed his glittering forehead in the main," spread over the wide expanse of waters, such gleamings of brightness and beauty, as no pen can describe nor pencil paint. The sky was cloudless;—and in the east, the moon, nearly full, soon began to kindle upon the rippling wave, a very different lustre, but not less adorned with the character of loveliness, and not less adapted to soothe and elevate the soul. Such a scene of simple magnificence, can be duly seen and felt, no where but in a situation similar to ours. Moving ourselves upon the broken and unstable surface, we could view the flood of reflected light, in every varying position;—sometimes in mild silvery radiance, from an extended and even space between two billows, and then, darting in most vivid corruscations from their broken and foaming summits. To heighten the scene this evening, the ship *Atlantic*, with her white canvass in full display, moved majestically and gracefully in the fore-ground of the picture; while the last roseate tinges of the sunken sun, gave to the western sky, a faint lingering impression

of that glorious orb, whose bounty the queen of Heaven was now dispensing to us with such a divine sweetness. But the impression which the mind receives, even from such an exhibition of the sublime of nature, very much depends upon the peculiar tincture of the hour. For ourselves, having just parted from one friend, and in lively expectation of soon beholding and embracing others, the dearest in nature, our sensibilities were not too much asleep to read the language of the scene before us.

6th. Another sunny day,—the air fresh and sweet, but still confining us to our zig-zag manœuvres. We have again lost sight of land. The ship *Atlantic* was in view all day, but at a great distance. In the evening we passed a fisherman, backed the mizen topsail, sent a boat on board, and procured a fine mess of fresh mackarel.

This being the Sabbath, we attended to its duties on the quarter deck, without interruption. The audience conducted themselves with much decency and respect.

Another glorious sunset; the effect being heightened by a stratum of clouds, which shot upwards from the horizon, immediately under the sun, in numerous pointed and irregular columns, reminding me, as they were whitened by the refraction of the sunbeams, of the wild and awful pyramids of ice, which rear their sublime points upon the glacier de Boisson, in the valley of Chamouny.

The atmosphere, as we approached the coast, does in reality appear to be clearer than that of England or France; and quite equal, as far as I can judge, to the air of Italy, or the Mediterranean.

7th. No change in the wind. The weather so warm as to excite some complaints of the heat from our Englishmen; though to me it feels comfortable. Our progress is exceedingly slow, but still we *move*; and we have the satisfaction to know, that Sandy-Hook cannot be far distant.

8th. An assurance that the heights of Navesink were in sight, induced many of us to leave our births this morning rather earlier than usual. The sky was delightfully clear, and the weather warmer than yesterday. A glimpse of my native state, as if just rising from the bed of ocean, once more cheered my eyes, and filled my imagination. Long-Island soon after appeared; and, by degrees, the light-house, and the extended beach of Sandy-Hook, and the hills of Staten-Island beyond. But the wind was so light, and so much ahead, the sight of those desirable objects seemed rather to tantalize, than to animate us, during the whole of the forenoon. About two o'clock the breeze freshened; and, when the bell rung for dinner, the land objects were multiplying rapidly before us. While finishing our repast, it was announced that the *Escort* was approaching us. This is a light, handsome sail-boat, belonging to the owners of the packets; and which they employ to welcome the packets *in*, and to bid them adieu when going *out*. In her was one of the owners, who was soon on board, and communicated the agreeable intelligence that our friends were well!

As we crossed the entrance of Rariton Bay, and approached the *Narrows*, the country appeared greener and fresher than we had expected to find it under so bright a sun. Our English passengers, who had

never been in America, amused us by the many involuntary expressions of surprise and delight, which the scenery around them seemed to extort. The numerous spires of the city, seen across the bay, and towering above the trees which shade the beautiful walks of the Battery; the verdant hills of Staten-Island on the left, with numerous farm-houses dispersed among them, and the little village of Richmond on the water's edge; the picturesque shore of Long-Island on the right, indented by little bays, and lined with a deep foilage; Governor's-Island, with its threatening castle, before us; Ellis and Bedlow Islands, just on the left of our track; the wide mouth of the Hudson, and its precipitous shores, seen to the distance of ten or twelve miles on each side of that noble stream, directly in front; while the steam-boats were sending out their long trains of smoke as they passed swiftly over the bay and river;—these diversified objects furnish a scene, which, under any circumstances, must give pleasure to the beholder; and, bursting suddenly upon the sea-worn stranger, cannot fail to enkindle the most delightful sensations. I question whether a perspective can any where be found, more worthy of the pencil of a Vernet.

We were boarded by successive boats sometime before our arrival, in which were many friends, who met us with kindness, and the expression of a welcome return. The wind was light; but, aided by the tide, we advanced directly in front of the town along the East River; and, without dropping anchor, our excellent ship* hauled up into the dock, where

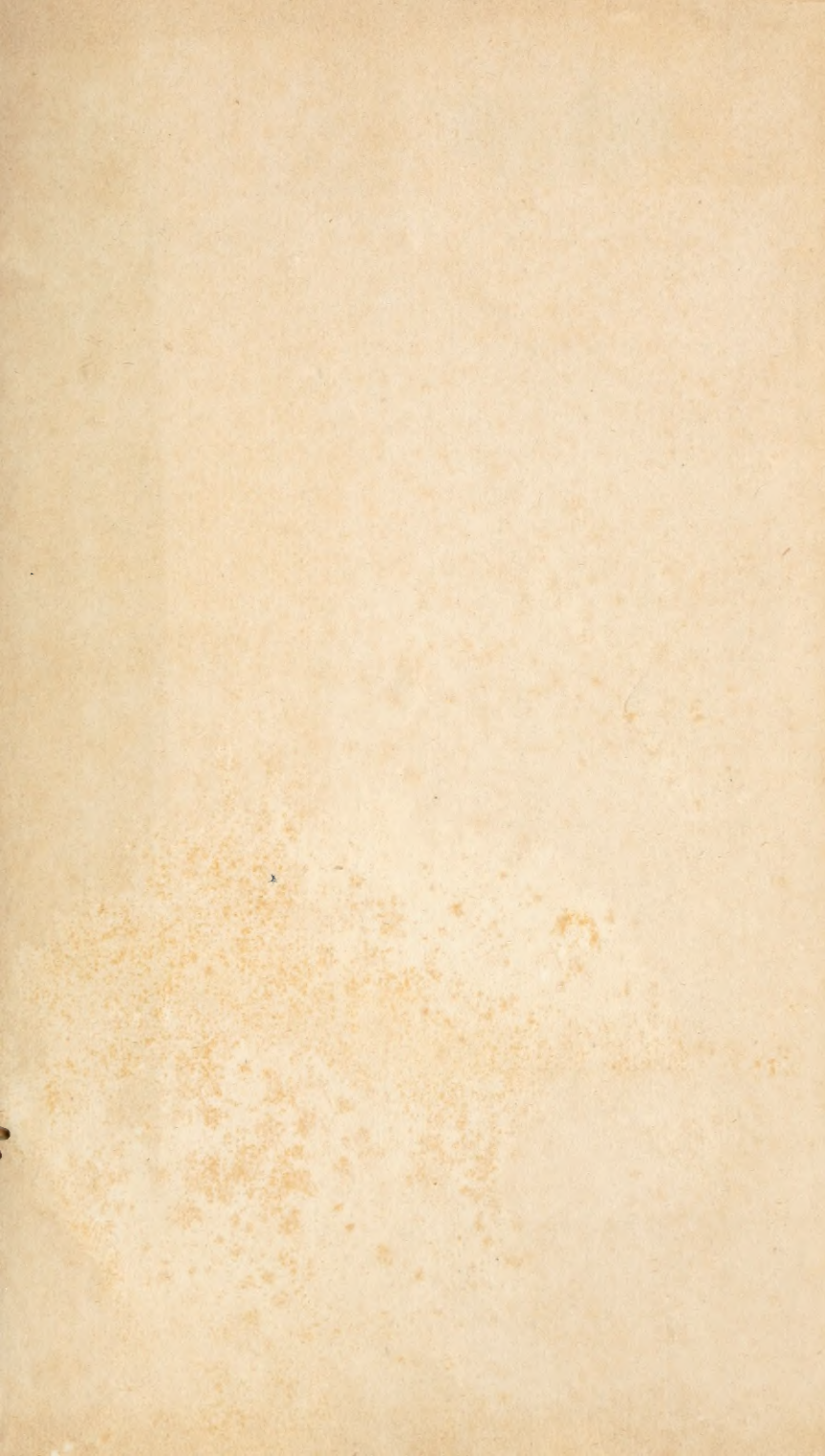
* Although the fate of this ship, and of her enterprising captain, is well known to the public, and has swelled the sympathetic bosoms of hundreds, on

she is to discharge her cargo. The deck was soon crowded with visiters, who came to welcome their friends; for the newspapers had given notice that the ship was below, some hours before our arrival.

Thus, my dear friends, am I once more in safety on my native shores; in good health, and, I trust, with a heart humbly thankful to a **DIVINE PROVIDENCE**, for that preservation which has accompanied me during the various occurrences of the last fourteen months: and thus, too, is completed the anniversary of one of the most agreeable of those occurrences, an interesting conversation at H——m, and our ride in the evening, to view the picturesque objects at Chingford Church.

both sides of the Atlantic, it will, I trust, be deemed proper that I should here briefly record the melancholy facts. She continued, as a packet ship, to maintain the high reputation, of which her first voyage afforded so fine a promise, until her outward passage in the month of April, 1822. She left New-York on the first of that month, with twenty-two cabin, and four or five steerage passengers; and had a good run across the ocean, arriving in the mouth of the channel about the 21st of the month. On the 22d, after encountering a violent gale, and riding it out, as it was hoped, in safety, she was struck, about eight in the evening, with a sudden gust of wind, which carried her masts by the board, and left her an unmanageable wreck. In this situation she drifted against the Irish coast, and was dashed to pieces upon the rocks, near the harbour of Old Kinsale. Of fifty-six persons on board, forty-five perished; and, among them, captain Williams himself. Of the cabin passengers, but one was saved.

Among those whose death, by this awful disaster, has been the most poignantly lamented, was **ALEXANDER METCALF FISHER**, Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, in Yale College, New-Haven. The profound attainments of this young man, the purity of his principles, and the moral elevation of his character, had drawn around him an extensive circle of friends and admirers, and excited the most agreeable expectations of future usefulness.



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